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ATOMIC ENERGY OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON CANADA TRIP

PY271633Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 27 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Rear Adm Carlos Castro Madero, president of the National Atomic Energy Commission [CNEA], has returned from Vienna where he had attended the first of three annual meetings of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA].

Castro Madero had first gone to Canada where he met with government officials to discuss transference of technology to Argentina. During a luncheon he had with Secretary of State for External Affairs Donald Campbell and Energy Minister Alastair William Gillespie, he laid the groundwork for future cooperation in the field of nuclear energy.

Castro Madero indicated that there have been significant changes in Argentine-Canadian cooperation due to the recent approval of a new Canadian law under which Canada will not supply nuclear fuel to countries who have not signed the nonproliferation treaty or are unwilling to open all of their nuclear installations to inspection by the IAEA.

"Since this applied to us it became necessary to clarify how this measure was going to affect us in the future and, very specifically, the effect it would have on contracts and lines of credit arranged prior to the approval of the law," said Castro Madero. He added: "We are at a point when it is necessary to know what our [word indistinct] nuclear plant will be and therefore we wanted to know exactly what kind of cooperation Argentina could expect from Canada." He indicated that considerable progress has been made. He said that ever since the signing of the 1974 agreement efforts have been made to improve its implementation. Provisions of this agreement will be confirmed in the near future and it is hoped that these will be the last safeguards demanded by Canada.

Asked about the OAS meeting, Castro Madero stated that Argentina had been contacted by many Latin American developing and developed countries regarding the sale of uranium to Peru, an unprecedented agreement in the field of nuclear technology between two developing countries. Castro Madero indicated that the agreement had required several months of negotiations with the United States, where the reactor had been built, before Argentine uranium was allowed to be used.

Regarding the exploitation of uranium deposits in Cordoba, Castro Madero stated: "Joint participation of Canada, FRG and Argentina is possible as long as Argentina remains in control." He also said that transference of technology from the FRG is being studied and a decision may be reached in June.

VIOLA: ARMY READY TO PROTECT SOVEREIGNTY

PY281339Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1025 GMT 28 Feb 78 PY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 28 Feb--Gen Roberto E. Viola, the army's chief of general staff, today stated that the armed forces are fully convinced of the need to protect our nation's sovereignty. He made this statement a short while after arriving at Ezeiza International Airport from Lima, Peru, where he attended ceremonies commemorating the bicentennial of the birth of General San Martin.

When asked by newsmen about the border dispute with Chile in the southern region, and in particular about the statements he made in Lima with reference to the subject, he said: The questions asked by the Peruvian press concerning the Beagle Channel issue were concerned mainly with the possibility of differences within the armed forces in dealing with the problem. I stated that no differences existed, since the armed forces are fully convinced of the need to protect our nation's sovereignty.

MEETING WITH BRAZILIAN DELEGATES DISCUSSED

PA280245Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0110 GMT 28 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 27 Feb (TELAM)--Commenting on the meeting of Argentine and Brazilian delegates which begins in Brazil on 29 February, Foreign Under Secretary Gualter Allara categorically stated that "it should be clear that there is no exclusion here or any bilateral decision." Newsmen had asked for the Argentine Foreign Ministry's opinion on the bilateral meeting because the JORNAL DO BRAZIL recently commented that the meeting confirmed the view of many Brazilian and Argentine diplomats on the need for direct consultations without the inconvenient Paraguayan presence. Regarding this, Captain Allara said that the meeting with Brazil, which might be repeated with Paraguay later, seeks to facilitate understandings among the three countries involved in the disagreement over the upper Parana. He added that any decision on the problem under discussion will always require the participation of the three countries. He noted that this has been understood by Brazil and Argentina.

ADMIRAL COMMEMORATES ANTARCTIC ANNIVERSARY

PY231548Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 23 Feb 78 PY

[Text] On Argentine Antarctic Day yesterday, Rear Adm Jorge Fraga, ret, director of the National Antarctic Institute, gave a press conference. He released a message commemorating the 64th anniversary of Argentina's establishment of the oldest Antarctic station, in the South Orkney Islands. The meeting was held at the headquarters of the Institute. The main parts of the message state: This celebration finds us Argentines fighting to strengthen our active presence in the frozen continent, through this presence to maintain our rights and protect our interests. We are also trying to increase the means which the air force uses to cooperate in Antarctic life, for which the air force provides techniques and services which are better and more modern day after day. The Argentine Army has been increasing the number of permanent stations and operations (?in the frozen region), which allow Argentina to proudly continue opening its Antarctic ports, giving Argentina the largest number of active stations among all the Antarctic countries, both in winter and in summer.

Later, Admiral Fraga maintained that the Argentine Antarctic Institute provides the needed scientific and technical aid for work and research, which at present, is mainly aimed at determining natural resources which can be used in the future. After making other remarks, Admiral Fraga mentioned the launching of the icebreaker Almirante Urizar in the city of [name indistinct]. The Almirante Urizar, with modern equipment, will replace the icebreaker General San Martin, which has been used for 2 1/2 years. He also mentioned that he proposed the name Almirante Urizar for the new icebreaker to pay homage to the late (Simon) Urizar, who was commander of the brave corvette Uruguay.

FSB REPORTS RESULTS OF LEADERS' MEETING

PY242002Y La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 22 Feb 78 pp 1, 5 PY

[Text] The Bolivian Socialist Falange [FSB] has asked the Bolivian Armed Forces to "guarantee that the coming elections are honest and free," indicating that the traditional mission of the armed forces is "to look after national security and internal order," condemning "any contemptible intent to turn the armed forces into a partisan political instrument."

The FBS leadership--Mario Gutierrez, Gaston Moreira, Carlos Valverde, Jaime Ponce, Luis Mayser, Humberto Siles and others--called a press conference to release the conclusions of the FSB's 18th meeting of national leaders and regional secretaries held in La Paz 18-20 February 1978.

At this party meeting, Mario Gutierrez reassumed the national leadership of the Falange, which gained the approval of those attending.

It was reported that Mario Gutierrez and Jaime Ponce Caballero were proposed as FSB candidates for the July 1978 general elections, but it was indicated that this proposal must be approved by the next national rally of the entire FSB.

Among the resolutions approved at the meeting of FSB leaders, the following are outstanding:

"To condemn the use of political parties as part of a broad plan of political Balkanization carried out by very small influential groups which intend to subdue the individual and continue the unending exploitation of the country;

"To recall that the specific mission of the armed forces is to look after national security and internal order, condemning any intent to turn the armed forces into a partisan political instrument;

"To reassert that the FSB's traditional nationalism is nourished in deeply rooted Bolivian traditions inspired by the gospel of Christian Socialism, aimed at attaining social justice and seeking the common well-being."

It is emphasized that "if the excessive wealth of a few continues despite the increasing poverty of the many, Bolivia will be divided into two societies: one capitalist, inhumane and exploiting; the other unprotected and more and more deprived. This will endanger social peace among the Bolivians. [Other resolutions were:]

"To postulate that any policy for development must not be oriented to serve an elite, but to favor the great national majority, including upgrading its educational, political and cultural levels;

"To instruct the party's political and ideological commissions regarding the ideas they are to present at the coming national rally, in light of the 1937 'Cartilla Azul' document and the changes during the 1958 meeting, to prepare a particularly socialist and democratic plan inspired by the basic principles of Christian humanism and in agreement with present times."

Subsequent paragraphs include the following resolutions: "To reiterate and reaffirm the traditional friendship between the FSB and the nation's armed forces, whose dissident members have always found a place and fighting front to defend the institution which has sometimes been shaken by challenging winds; to give the party's leadership the freedom to set the definite date for the next special and extraordinary national convention, while taking into account political circumstances and the progress of the country's democratization process; to make a fervent call to all Falange comrades who, for one reason or another, have become isolated from the party--in the present national situation the FSB needs the valuable and committed participation of all its leaders and all its grassroots members."

The FSB reiterates "its open support of the peasant and worker movements and the union cause." The FSB emphasizes that the nation's peasantry should be reminded that "the FSB was the first party to advocate agrarian reform for the peasant and progressive nationalization of the country's principal sources of wealth."

Lastly, the FSB decided "to propose a great national agreement based on dialog among all interested political entities and a great national alliance to save democracy, the dignity of institutions, and to propose a civilized coexistence which would be in keeping with the nation's honor."

A declaration of unity, signed by all of the FSB's regional secretaries, was disclosed. It includes the following points:

"Satisfaction that Comrade Mario R. Gutierrez has reassumed the FSB's national leadership; congratulations to Comrade Gaston Moreira Ostria for brilliant leadership of the party during his term as chief, and for the loyalty and consistency with which he has directed the cause taken over from Oscar Unzaga de la Vega; approval of the reincorporation of Comrade Carlos Valverde Barbero and others--a demonstration of the FSB's unshakable unity. The Falange unity constitutes a rejection of the country's antidemocratic and separatist movements, which try to disparage political parties and, with that pretext, advocate unpopular and totalitarian governments. Total support of the party leadership and its national rules is in keeping with Falangist morals and discipline."

BRIEFS

AGREEMENTS WITH ARGENTINA--La Paz, 15 Feb--The governments of Argentina and Bolivia signed agreements yesterday for the protection of temporary workers in border areas and for control of diseases in the same areas. The Bolivian foreign minister and the Argentine ambassador signed the two agreements. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1105 GMT 15 Feb 78 PY]

REIS VELLOSO REPORTS NATIONAL ECONOMIC STATUS

PY251300Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 22 Feb 78 p 19 PY

[Excerpt] Brasilia--Brazil's GNP (Gross National Product) was \$163 billion in 1977, bringing the Brazilian per capita income to \$1,440, Planning Minister Reis Velloso reported yesterday, quoting figures released by the Getulio Vargas Foundation [FGV]. He also noted that all enterprises are optimistic over their industrial activity during the first quarter of 1978.

A FGV survey of the present situation reveals that 9 percent of the enterprises expect a drop in the level of employment during the first quarter of this year, compared to the 16-percent reduction [in unemployment] observed in the last quarter of 1977. [sentence as published] The minister reported that the unused capacity of the industrial sector has remained at 18 percent.

According to the FGV report, 26 percent of industrial enterprises had a drop in production during the last quarter of last year, while 46 percent increased production and 28 percent remained stable. Four percent had a drop in installed capacity, 20 percent had increases, and 76 percent maintained their production potential.

Although only 9 percent of the enterprises expect a drop in the level of employment for the first quarter of 1978, the FGV survey indicates that 25 percent expect a drop in demand and 24 percent believe that they will have a drop in production.

Reis Velloso also noted that there is "optimism" over the behavior of the economy in view of the large number of investment projects--primarily by the private sector--submitted to the Industrial Development Council (CDI).

A total of 167 consultation letters and 140 projects involving a total of 53 billion cruzeiros in investments are now under consideration. Reis Velloso said: "At the beginning of this year there are good prospects for large demand on resources."

Reis Velloso reported that the percentage of Brazilian-built equipment involved in CDI investment projects rose from 36 percent in 1973 to 76 percent last year. The participation of national enterprises in the total amount of projects approved rose from 76 percent in 1974 to 91 percent in 1977.

Reis Velloso reported that President Geisel had approved a total of 108 billion cruzeiros for promoting development in three priority areas--petroleum, basic inputs and exports--this year, which means "a significant 65-percent increase in relation to that of 1977."

He added that this ceiling for priority areas "meant less sizeable resources for other sectors, such as infrastructure, which will have a 35-percent adjustment in the volume of resources." This process will be implemented through the National Economic Development Bank (BNDE).

The BNDE will have 62 billion cruzeiros this year for financing capital assets, basic inputs and for the Fund for the Development of the Amazon Region [FINAME]; and 47.5 billion cruzeiros for export promotion, compared to 33.5 billion cruzeiros in 1977. Basic inputs will demand 28.5 billion cruzeiros, and 30 billion cruzeiros is for FINAME.

"Adding the BNDE's resources to those of FINAME, we will have a total of 80 billion cruzeiros," said Reis Velloso, who went on to acknowledge that "in fact excessive demands on the BNDE will have to be redistributed among other development banks." He also announced that the third national meeting of exporters will be held in Rio de Janeiro in July.

Reis Velloso announced the value of the GNP on the basis of preliminary data released by the FGV and the Industry and Commerce Ministry, and he noted that the \$1,440 per capita income is based on a population of 113 million people.

Within the gross domestic product [GDP], consumption increased last year in relation to the average recorded in the 1970-75 period: from 76.7 percent to nearly 80 percent. There was a significant decrease in the participation of foreign reserves in the buildup of capital. From 17.4 percent in 1976, it decreased to a little more than 10 percent.

The planning minister said: "This is a major achievement. Today, 90 percent of investments in the country are made from domestic savings, which means that we have overcome the acute stage of the petroleum crisis, in which foreign reserves accounted for 27 percent of our investment amount."

To reduce the country's debts, the government seeks to reduce to 5 percent the present 10 percent (which Reis Velloso terms "historic") participation of foreign reserves in the country's gross buildup of capital.

As a result of the increase in consumption, the overall gross buildup of capital dropped from 24.2 percent (in 1976) to 22.6 percent last year. Consumption plus buildup of capital (investments) make up 100 percent of the GDP. The surplus amount is the participation of foreign reserves in investments made in Brazil.

The FGV reports, based on preliminary data, that the agricultural sector accounted for 12 percent of domestic income, the industrial sector for 37 percent, and services for almost 51 percent of the GNP. The total real product, which is a similar concept to that of the GNP, will reflect a growth of more than 5 percent, compared to the 9.2 percent growth of 1976, once the national accounts are reviewed.

FIGURES GIVEN ON BIGGEST TRADE IMBALANCES

PY281246Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 25 Feb 78 p 19 PY

[Excerpt] Of the 21 leading nations which had negative trade balances with Brazil last year, the following countries, acting through enterprises or government organizations, have already asked for information from the Foreign Trade Department [CACEX], to be able to exert as much pressure as possible on the Brazilian Government to bring trade back to equilibrium: the Netherlands, Italy, Hungary and the USSR.

Brazil obtained its largest surplus--\$706,325,000--in its trade balance with the Netherlands last year, when its exports totaled \$12,139,380,000 and its imports, \$11,907,958,000. It had its largest deficit with Saudi Arabia, a total of \$1,272,740,000 which was accounted for by petroleum imports.

MILITARY DISPLEASED WITH 38-PERCENT PAY INCREASE

FY241857Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Feb 78 p 30 FY

[Excerpt] As happened last year, the military sector showed dissatisfaction yesterday over the 30-percent salary readjustment authorized by President Geisel. As soon as the officers learned about the new salary readjustment, many expressed their disappointment over its percentage, which is lower than the official inflation rate, and over the fact that the proposal for widening salary differentials between ranks made by the armed forces joint staff has been rejected.

That proposal has been submitted many times and the Armed Forces Joint Staff studied this matter many times. It was known that President Geisel rejected the proposal last week, after examining all the suggestions as to how to readjust the salaries of officers in active duty or in retirement.

GAROUFA OILFIELD TO BEGIN OPERATION IN APRIL

FY231604Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 19 Feb 78 p 28 FY

[Excerpt] The official inauguration of the Garoupa oilfield in the Campos Basin, which is expected to produce over 45,000 barrels a day, is scheduled for the second week of March, but it will not begin operation until April. A month before the scheduled date, PETROBRAS still has to solve very difficult technical problems and to complete various tests necessary to adjust the operation of the system.

This information was given to O GLOBO by engineers from the PETROBRAS executive group for development of the Campos Basin. This group, which was specially created to develop the oilfield off the Rio de Janeiro coast, pointed out that the inauguration may be merely symbolic, since it will mark only the installation of equipment. The engineers stated that the production of 45,000 barrels a day will only be achieved some time later, which is normal in any new oilfield.

ARENA CONVENTION SCHEDULED FOR 8-9 APRIL

FY241359Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 24 Feb 78 FY

[Text] In a meeting which only lasted 6 minutes yesterday, the national ARENA directorate scheduled the party's convention for 8-9 April. The convention will officially recognize Gen Joao Baptista Figueiredo as presidential candidate. At the same time, the national directorate issued a resolution supporting President Geisel's choice. Senator Magalhaes Pinto, the maverick presidential candidate, did not even attend his party's national directorate meeting.

MEXICO'S LOPEZ-PORTILLO ASKS TO VISIT IN JUNE

FY240150Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 23 Feb 78 p 5 FY

[Text] Brasilia--Mexican President Jose Lopez-Portillo wants to visit Brazil officially in June, accepting an invitation extended to him in January by President Ernesto Geisel. This report was released yesterday at Itamaraty by Mexican Ambassador Leon Roberto Garcia, who submitted to the Brazilian Government the dates suggested by his Foreign Ministry.

Within a few days Itamaraty will have to decide on the dates suggested by Mexico for the visit. If the agenda of the Brazilian president has no room for new commitments in June--there is none so far--President Lopez-Portillo will not visit Brazil until October.

The Mexican Foreign Ministry does not want to propose days in September because of the Brazilian national independence celebration, or in July and August, because the agendas of both Presidents Lopez-Portillo and Geisel are practically full.

PAKISTANI, AUSTRIAN ENVOYS PRESENT CREDENTIALS

PY271658Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 Feb 78 p 6 PY

[Excerpts] Brasilia--Yesterday, when President Geisel received the credentials of Zahir Mohammad Farroqi, new Pakistani ambassador, they discussed the problems of the under-developed countries trying to obtain nuclear technology.

Pakistan has signed an agreement with France similar to the one signed between Brazil and the FRG. This agreement is being submitted to the same pressures from those countries which have the monopoly of nuclear energy, according to Ambassador Farroqi.

President Geisel yesterday also received the credentials of the new Austrian ambassador, Walter Magrutsch, 49 years old, a lawyer who entered the foreign service in 1954.

BRIEFS

JAPANESE INVESTMENT--A Japanese company will be formally created on 27 March in order to invest \$65 million in an agricultural project to be developed in the Minas Gerais shrub lands [cerrados] to produce soybeans, wheat, corn, coffee and eucalyptus timber. [Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 21 Feb 78 PY]

ROAD BUILT IN MAURITANIA--Brasilia--Presidential Press Adviser Col Toledo Camargo yesterday released a telegram sent to the Civilian Household chief by the Mendes Junior Construction Firm, reporting that the company has concluded a 606-km-long road in Mauritania. This road--which was built with Brazilian material and equipment--links the cities of Kiffa and Nouakchott, across the Sahara Desert, and was completed 112 days ahead of schedule. [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 18 Feb 78 p 24 PY]

ASSISTANCE TO IVORY COAST--Abidjan, 10 Feb--Through the Campinas Central Agricultural Cooperative and the Bank of Brazil, Brazil will help Ivory Coast obtain a production of 1 million tons of soybeans as soon as possible, said Denis Kanon, Ivory Coast agriculture minister, at the end of his official visit to Brazil. He said that his trip was very instructive and fruitful and that his Brazilian colleague will return his visit soon. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1456 GMT 10 Feb 78 PY]

RADIOBRAS PRESIDENT RESIGNS--Communications Minister Quanot de Oliveira today accepted the resignation of Col Pedro Wandek de Leoni Ramos as president of the Brazilian Radiotelegraphic Company [RADIOBRAS]. [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 17 Feb 78 PY]

IRON ORE DEPOSIT DISCOVERED--Rio de Janeiro, 18 Feb--It was reported here today that a new iron ore deposit was discovered in the state of Rio Grande do Norte, northeastern Brazil, some 100 km from Natal, capital of the state. Mines and Energy Minister Shigeaki Ueki said that this new deposit may become a very rich mining center because there are great possibilities of finding gold, lead and manganese as well. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1513 GMT 18 Feb 78 PY]

LOAN FOR PETROBRAS--The Planning Secretariat yesterday authorized the Brazilian Petroleum Corporation to obtain a \$35 million loan from the Lloyds Bank International. This loan will be earmarked for purchasing British prospecting equipment to be utilized at the Campos oil basin. [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 21 Feb 78 p 23 PY]

NEW MILITARY OFFICIAL--Gen Haroldo Erichsen da Fonseca was sworn in yesterday as the new commander of the Rio de Janeiro Military Academy, replacing Gen Jose Albuquerque. [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL 21 Feb 78 p 8 PY]

INFANTRY BRIGADE COMMANDER--Belo Horizonte--Gen Leonidas Pires Goncalves will be sworn in tomorrow as the new commander of the 4th Infantry Brigade in Minas Gerais. [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 16 Feb 78 p 4 PY]

NEW NAVY DIRECTOR--Brasilia--Vice Adm Raphael de Azevedo Branco was sworn in yesterday as director of armament and communications of the Navy Ministry. [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL 16 Feb 78 p 4 PY]

NEW COMMANDER--Brasilia--Gen Antonio Ferreira Marques will be sworn in next Friday as the new commander of the 1st Military Region. [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 18 Feb 78 p 4 PY]

SALARY READJUSTMENT--Brasilia--The salaries of government workers and military employees have had a 38-percent readjustment, by a decree signed by President Geisel, to be effective 1 March 1978. [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Feb 78 p 1 PY]

LOW-LEVEL SALARIES--The lowest salary categories of government workers have been readjusted from 45 to 51 percent. [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 23 Feb 78 p 9 PY]

PANAMA SEEKS CHILEAN COOPERATION IN COPPER MINING

PA160240Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Panama today formally asked the Chilean Government for technical cooperation to begin the exploitation of the Cerro Colorado copper deposit, which will launch the Central American nation into the world group of copper producers. Panamanian Education Minister Aristides Royo made the request to Chilean President Gen Augusto Pinochet during a 40-minute meeting.

Panama has placed great hopes on the deposit, which has reserves of almost 2 billion tons of the mineral and which, once exploitation begins, can produce 200,000 tons of fine copper a year.

The request for technical cooperation was made to Chile, since it is one of the world's largest copper producers, with an annual production of more than 1 million tons. Minister Royo said that a joint committee will be established during the next few months to study this cooperation. Royo returns to Panama today.

It is good for Panama to talk with Chile because of Chile's experience in the copper field and because it has always been willing to cooperate. Jaime Roquetbert, technical manager of the Cerro Colorado Mining Development Corporation, who accompanied Minister Royo to Chile, said that the technical cooperation which Chile can give to Panama lies essentially in the training of personnel. It is possible, he added, that Panamanian personnel will travel to Chile this year to begin their training in the various Chilean mines, including that of Chuquicamata, which is an open pit mine, as is the one planned in Cerro Colorado.

During his meeting with Pinochet, Royo also briefed the Chilean president on the development of the negotiations that Panama is carrying out with the United States on the Panama Canal. Royo said that President Pinochet reiterated Chile's support of Panama's aspirations.

BRITAIN NOT TO SEND AMBASSADOR DURING 1978

FY240229Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0053 GMT 24 Feb 78 FY

[Text] Santiago, 23 Feb--Keith Haskell, the British charge d'affaires in this country, said here today that the British Government would refrain from naming an ambassador in Santiago during this year. The diplomat made this statement after bidding farewell to Commander in Chief of the Air Force and member of the government junta, Gen Gustavo Leigh, at the end of his tour of duty in Chile. The London government withdrew its ambassador in Santiago, Reginald Seconde, in December 1975, after the arrest here of Sheyla Cassidy in connection with the search for militants of the clandestine Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR]. Haskell, who will be replaced by a diplomatic officer of the same rank, Erick Anglin, said that "in spite of these problems," he believes "they can be discussed by two civilized nations such as Chile and Great Britain."

REPORTAGE, COMMENTARY ON ELECTORAL PRIMARIES

Liberal Turbay Comments

PA282318Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 28 Feb 78 PA

[By Edgar Artunduaga from the office of the Colombian Democratic Association]

[Text] Liberal candidate Julio Cesar Turbay today gave thanks for the public statement of support made in his favor by former President Alberto Lleras Camargo, describing it as invigorating. In a direct allusion to Conservative candidate Belisario Betancur, Turbay said that he does not seek to be the leader of abstensionists, but an adviser of the Liberal Party. He remarked sarcastically that the silence of the two Carloses has made it impossible to learn the opinion of the entire party in regard to last Sunday's victory. He was referring to his rivals Carlos Lleras Restrepo and Carlos Holmes Trujillo.

Turbay insisted that his victory is a victory for the Liberal Party, and reiterated that he will take advantage of it without gloating and with respect for those who followed trends other than his. I have no enemies in the Liberal Party and I invite all of my adversaries to join our ranks to defeat the Conservatives in June, Turbay said during a news conference.

He ironically remarked that Betancur's statistics and the optimistic figures of the large circulation press were overturned on Sunday. Turbay repeatedly called for unity among Liberals.

[Turbay--begin recording] We do not conceive of power as an end in itself, but as a means to be placed at the service of social change, at the service of Colombia's highest interests. I feel that I have no adversaries in the Liberal Party. Whatever their decision may have been about my candidacy, I fully realize that they had justifiable reasons to support various other options. Therefore, I would look with the greatest sympathy, cordiality and enthusiasm if Liberals from various factions would approach our ranks and contribute to the process of Liberal solidification. [end recording]

Turbay hailed Santofimio Botero's victory against the Llerista slates in his department, noting that Tolima showed it is on his side. He remarked that the former minister has lived up to his responsibilities.

Turbay said that his victory over Betancur will be in the same proportion as Lopez Michelsen's victory over Gomez Hurtado. He is holding a news conference at this moment.

Low Turnout Considered Dangerous

PA282011Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1818 GMT 28 Feb 78 PA

[By Daniel Sirel]

[Text] Bogota, 28 Feb (AFP)--Abstentionism, which broke all records in Colombia's political history in last Sunday's elections, with 70 percent of those eligible not voting, today became the headache of Colombian politicians, analysts felt today.

Despite the National Registry's slowness in counting the votes cast, it is now felt that of a potential 17 million voters only 4 million voted. Analysts believe that figures abstentionism will surpass 75 percent, the highest in history. The previous record (69.80 percent) was in 1938 when in the election of Eduardo Santos, Conservatives refused to go to the polls.

The present situation is quite different, as all political parties and groups-- traditional or opposition--urged people to vote.

With the results known so far, those chosen on Sunday will legislate under "the weight of the silent majority," political analysts feel. They believe the masses showed their unhappiness with the system, which did not contribute solutions to the most serious problems of the times: insecurity (kidnapings and holdups), corruption, unemployment, drug traffic and contraband.

Certain analysts even speculated that this "indifference" may favor the emergence of a populist leader from either the right or the left, civilian or military, with a bold promise of change. At this time that possibility does not exist, as the Colombian political class lacks of leader capable of channelling a "third force," as was done by Jorge Eliecer Gaitan, murdered in 1948, and Gen Gustavo Rojas Pinilla, who died in 1975.

The same analysts feel that to deal with this danger, those elected must give priority attention to the growing unrest of the popular classes demanding social justice. This warning was made also by Conservative Party candidate Belisario Betancur, who attributed low voter turnout "to the people's repugnance at corruption in Congress and regional legislative organizations." On the other hand, Senator Augusto Valderrama, spokesman and ideologist of the Carlos Lleras group, said that "this debate affected chiefly the traditional parties, which should realize that their system caused confusion among the people."

For the winner of the official Liberal Party nomination, Julio Cesar Turbay, the answer to the urgent needs of Colombians should come from the constituent assembly called for this August. This constituent assembly was entrusted with reforming justice and re-organizing department and municipal administration.

The same situation of the traditional parties faces the leftist opposition groups, which should change their strategy to avoid, as they said, "dying from inaction."

Partial Vote Count Released

PA010122Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2305 GMT 28 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 28 Feb (EFE)--Liberal presidential aspirant Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala tonight continues to be his party's virtual winner in Sunday's elections. According to an official bulletin of the National Registry Office, he led Carlos Lleras Restrepo by 436,416 votes. According to the official bulletin issued tonight after the votes of 520 of the country's 948 municipalities had been counted, Turbay Ayala received 720,593 votes while former President Lleras Restrepo received 284,177 votes.

In the Conservative Party, former candidate Alvaro Gomez Hurtado leads the group headed by former President Misael Pastrana Borrero by 21,508 votes. The Alvarist sector has obtained 295,430 votes while the Pastrana-Ospina sector has received 273,922 votes.

The official figures released by the registry are as follows:

For the Liberal Party:

Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala, 720,593; Carlos Lleras Restrepo, 284,177; Carlos Holmes Trujillo, 65,648; Belisarist Liberals, 35; others, 11,213; total votes 1,081,666.

For the Conservative Party:

Alvaro Gomez Hurtado, 295,430; Misael Pastrana-Bertha de Ospina, 273,922; Popular Movement, 5,168; others, 180,420; total votes, 754,940.

Extreme left:

United People's Front, 25,345; National Opposition Union-National Popular Alliance-Independent Liberal Movement, 62,021; Unios [not further identified] 2,702; Socialists, 1,241; others, 8,971; total votes, 100,280. The aforementioned official figures total 1,938,995 [figures as received] votes from 520 of the 948 municipalities. They include 900 polls of Bogota.

UNIONS REJOIN COLOMBIAN WORKERS CONFEDERATION

PA010140Y Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 25 Feb 78 p 9-A PA

[Text] All the organizations which voluntarily withdrew from the October 1976 national congress of the Confederation of Workers of Colombia [CTC] rejoined it yesterday. The CTC is presided over by Manuel Felipe Hurtado.

The organization, with an estimated membership of 18,000 workers, issued a communique stating that they adopted the decision because according to the conclusions reached by the CTC national plenum held in Villeta, Cundinamarca, in January in their judgment the undemocratic actions of dismissed CTC President Gustavo Diaz Raga and his group have stopped.

The organizations which rejoined the CTC are: the Port Workers Federation [Federacion de Trabajadores Portuarios], Cundinamarca United Workers Federation [Federacion de Trabajadores Unidos de Cundinamarca], Cundinamarca and Bogota Labor Federation [Federacion del Trabajo de Cundinamarca y Bogota], Colombian Metallurgic Workers Federation [Federacion de Trabajadores Metalurgicos de Colombia--PETRAMECOL], Atlantic Coast Workers Federation [Federacion de Trabajadores del Atlantico], Cauca Workers Federation [Federacion de Trabajadores del Cauca], National Union of Workers of Theaters and Film Distributors [Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores de Cines y Distribuidores de Peliculas], Tia Department Store National Workers Union [Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores de Almacenes Tia], Idema National Workers Union [Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores del Idema], Icasa National Workers Union [Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores de Icasa], Heavy Equipment and Agricultural and Equipment National Workers Union [Sindicato Nacional de Trabajadores de Maquinaria Pesada y Agricola].

In their communique, the labor organizations which comprised the so-called CTC reorganization committee praised the Villeta plenum's decision of reversing the expulsion of leaders Hugo Solom Acero and James Vargas, and of canceling sanctions against the Federation of United Workers of Cundinamarca [Federacion de Trabajadores Unidos de Cundinamarca].

They noted that this decision "puts a stop to a critical period which deeply affected union forces and opens a wider path to labor democracy, to the free exchange of opinions and to the right to dissent with a friendly unified spirit within the framework of the CTC statutes."

Moreover, they affirmed that the labor unions must support the joint efforts of the country's four labor centrals "to find a way for the creation of a single workers labor central in the near future."

POLICE AMBUSHED BY ELN UNITS IN BOLIVAR DEPARTMENT

PA242311Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 24 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Cartagena--A police patrol composed of a corporal and six policemen was ambushed this morning by a guerrilla command of the National Liberation Army [ELN] in the jurisdiction of Pinillo, in the southern part of Bolivar Department. No casualties were reported in the armed clash, which lasted over 30 minutes. The police managed to capture three members of the guerrilla organization, who were identified as Cendel Cordero Torres, Manuel Francisco Cordero and Miguel Cordero. Apparently they are the same guerrillas who last week held up the Agrarian Fund offices in San Martin de Loba.

ELN GUERRILLA CAPTURED IN BUCARAMANGA

PA252010Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 25 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Guerrilla Segundo Eduardo Galeano Lopez was captured in Bucaramanga today. He is a member of the National Liberation Army (ELN). Pamphlets pertaining to the ELN were found in his possession. The guerrilla is in the custody of the 5th Brigade.

BUSINESS EXECUTIVE KIDNAPED IN VALLE DEPARTMENT

PA241941Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 24 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Cali--Luis Ernesto Nunez Reyes, a business executive, was kidnaped at noon today by several men armed with revolvers and submachineguns. Nunez Reyes was with his wife when the kidnapers intercepted his car near Rio Frio, in the north of Valle Department. Nunez Reyes' wife had to be taken to a hospital in Tulua. She was suffering from a nervous breakdown. The authorities believe that Nunez Reyes was kidnaped by common hoodlums who so far have not made any demand for his release. In the meantime, the police revealed that industrialist Jose Bartolini, who was kidnaped last week, was rescued unharmed in Medellin.

AUTHORITIES REJECT IMPLICATION IN MYSTERIOUS DEATHS

PA252032Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 25 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Police headquarters and the headquarters of the Department of Administrative Security [DAS] in Santander at noon emphatically rejected the charges made against the two institutions by National Popular Alliance [ANAPO] Deputy Carlos Toledo Plata with regard to the mysterious death of activists Alfonso Enrique Vergara and Carlos Aguirre on Friday on the highway to Matanzas.

In a joint communique, Col Gilberto Sanclemente, chief of the police, and retired Maj Hugo Mancilla, chief of the DAS, rejected the charges, terming them brazen and false. A report to this effect was submitted today by Hector Gomez, RCN's correspondent in Santander.

ENTIRE REFERENDUM TRIBUNAL RESIGNS

PA280344Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0116 GMT 28 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpt] Quito, 27 Feb (LATIN)--All the members of the organization in charge of overseeing the presidential election on 16 July in Ecuador tendered their resignations today, as confirmed by tribunal chief Galo Plaza. Their massive resignation coincided with the enforcement of the new laws on elections and parties which were published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE today. The promulgation of those laws a week ago raised a wave of protest at all political levels.

Former President Plaza made statements to the press confirming that the seven full members of the Supreme Referendum Tribunal and their alternates resigned today. This organization was responsible for the plebiscite held in January during which Ecuadoreans chose a new constitution. It was supposed to become "the Supreme Electoral Tribunal" as set forth in the electoral law.

The tribunal officials went ahead with their resignations even though the law on elections specifically forbade them to excuse themselves from their duties even for reasons of old age as is the case with Plaza.

Plaza said that the resignations took place because the members felt that they had fulfilled the mission entrusted to them by the military government with the choice of a new constitution, which will become effective when the president elected in July takes office.

In the meantime, the official publication of the laws on elections and parties did away with all hope that the wording of the laws might be changed, as many political groups had requested.

NOGUES DISCUSSES PARANA RIVER DAMS IN CLARIN INTERVIEW

FY231636Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1300 GMT 23 Feb 78 FY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Feb--In an exclusive CLARIN interview published today, Paraguayan Foreign Minister Alberto Nogues said: The Corpus Dam project is not a ghost project for my country, which wants to achieve specific and definitive results regarding the compatibility of binational undertakings on the Parana River. Nogues added: According to what the Argentine energy under secretary told me yesterday, Corpus has top priority in Argentine energy policy. Consequently, there is no reason at all to believe that Corpus was projected in order to shove aside another undertaking--specifically, Itaipu.

With unquestionable knowledge of the subject, the distinguished visitor gave an overall description of the complex issue, which Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil are studying, of constructing large dams on the Parana River. Regarding the exact date of the next tripartite conference, originally scheduled for February, Foreign Minister Nogues said that because of certain incidents it is not possible to hold the conference in February, but that it will probably be held in March.

The foreign minister was asked about a statement in which he reportedly said that according to treaty--the Itaipu Treaty--Paraguay and Brazil are partners, but that Paraguay and Argentina are not legal partners and that the Corpus project is an Argentine proposal. Nogues explained by saying that there is a treaty on Itaipu, which therefore establishes a legal bond between Paraguay and Brazil, while regarding the Corpus project with Argentina there is a desire to achieve a treaty which will lead to construction of the dam. He added that the holding of tripartite talks is a way of cooperating, as the three countries are now doing regarding shared natural resources, because this is a constructive way of determining with precision the interrelation between Itaipu and Corpus.

Regarding the Monday Dam, Nogues explained that Paraguay does not have any known energy resources except hydroelectric energy. He stated: Paraguay places great importance on its interior rivers, and the Monday dam is of singular importance because once the Itaipu dam is built there is going to be less water--for 15 days--in the Parana River on the south side of the dam. So that navigation will not be interrupted and so that the river will have a reasonable volume [words indistinct]. He added: We must note that there are many ways to achieve these objectives: one is special construction within the dam itself which would allow part of the water to pass and the rest to be retained.

Nogues noted that in gigantic projects like Itaipu, there are many great difficulties--as shown in a dam in Africa. This is precisely the risk that must be avoided in Itaipu. He added that another possibility is for the Brazilian undertakings on the Iguazu River, of which there are several, to provide part of the water now used for hydroelectric power to increase the volume of the Parana River.

Finally Nogues said: There is also the so-called Monday solution. My country would have to flood 900 square km of territory for 3 years so that once the dam was built it could dump its waters into the Parana during the 15 or 16 days the Itaipu reservoir is backing up, which will reportedly cause a water crisis on the Parana River.

Regarding the effect of the height of the Corpus dam on Monday, the foreign minister stated that he was not able to answer this precisely since it is a highly technical issue but he asserted that despite the fact that the Itaipu issue will be submitted to a careful study which will take at least 3 months, the tripartite meeting will yield definitive and specific results.

48-HOUR STRIKE ENDS; COUNTRY ALMOST ENTIRELY CALM

PA281905Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1825 GMT 28 Feb 78 PA

[BY Miguel Paredes]

[Excerpts] Lima, 28 Feb (LATIN)--The 48-hour "general strike" decreed by a procommunist labor union ended today after being declared "illegal" by the government. At the same time, (?the country) is almost totally calm.

On the first day of the strike, some 200 persons were arrested for having clashed with security forces after they had put up barricades and burned automobile tires on the city's main avenues. According to Interior Minister Gen Luis Cisneros, those arrested include leaders of the General Confederation of Workers of Peru (CGTP), who organized the strike, and rioters "who will be made to feel the wight of the law."

In statements to the press, Cisneros said that the strike "was a total failure because the citizenry responded with great maturity to the anti-Peruvian efforts of the CGTP." He announced that the police are still looking for several agitators who were involved in the strike. For its part, the Labor Ministry issued an official communique urging the strikers to return to their jobs tomorrow "or face the consequences." Under a decree-law issued by the government in July 1977, the strikers could be dismissed from their jobs on proof of their participation in the strike. Last July, several thousand laborers and office workers were dismissed for striking.

In a broad tour carried out until noon today, LATIN reporters confirmed that there was complete calm in various parts of Lima, particularly sectors considered to be "sensitive" where several clashes with the police occurred yesterday.

The only observation made was that minibuses for areas outside of the capital were more scarce than yesterday. Apparently, there were also fewer buses in service. Banks gave limited service, and according to a communique of the Peruvian Bank Employees Federation (FEB), the strike "was a success." The communique given to LATIN added that "the United nationwide strike convoked by our aggressive labor union...despite the attempts by the government and the reactionaries to sabotage it and cause it to fail, has been observed by workers...demanding labor and political amnesty."

Meanwhile, the CGTP headquarters remains closed since 25 February and is under discreet police surveillance. The whereabouts of the leaders is unknown. The police units which are patrolling the city are supported by members of the armed forces who are using light tanks and helicopters to locate disorders more rapidly. Most of the personnel reported to work in the ministries and other public agencies, as well as in hospitals and clinics, supermarkets and supply centers.

Bermudez Appeals for Unity

PY271455Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Peruvian President Francisco Morales Bermudez said that his main objective right now is to achieve national unity. He said that it is impossible to build or develop a country if dissension prevails. He then made a strong call for unity to overcome the present situation.

The president did not prepare a message or hold a press conference, but pointed out the need to communicate and talk with the people. He said: "I have not prepared these ideas, but I felt the need to have a dialog with the Peruvian people."

He also indicated that "we must all work for our national objectives and for the objectives of the people, and to achieve them, we must work hard and consistently to achieve the development and happiness of our people." He also asked the politicians to begin working in a socially-oriented, realistic and positive manner for the upcoming constituent assembly, in preparation for the transfer of power.

Strike Called Failure

PA010201Y Lima Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 0040 GMT 1 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Today, Tuesday, Interior Minister Gen Luis Cisneros Vizquerra urged the people to maintain the same mature, calm and responsible conduct which they observed yesterday in rejecting what he labeled as "anti-Peruvian intentions of the General Confederation of Workers of Peru [CGTP] and the CUL [not further identified]." He said that as he had forecast, the strike ended in "total failure" because "the workers are tired of being manipulated" and because of the appeal made by President Francisco Morales Bermudez for unity and constructive work. He said that 185 agitators had been arrested in Lima, including approximately 20 leaders. He warned that these persons were not arrested for supporting the strike, but because they were promoting disorders and attacks against private and public property. The police moved into action quickly in several incidents in southern Lima, preventing greater disorders, said the minister. He added that the armed forces and police continue to guarantee order with judicious firmness so that the activities and public services will develop without interruption.

Labor Minister Air Force Lt Gen Jose Garcia Calderon said yesterday that the great majority of the country's workers did not heed the CGTP order to strike, emphasizing their "maturity and prudence" and following the president's appeal. The great majority of the country's workers ignored the strike declared by the CGTP, which was described as a "thoroughly political action" by the minister. He said that less than 10 percent of the workers who supported the 19 July 1977 strike supported this strike. He added that Labor Ministry inspectors "verified this at the centers of the CGTP which were visited." The minister said that "the banks and their branches have been serving the public, which means that even the employees affiliated with the Federation of Bank Employees did not obey the orders of their leadership because they considered it a political action and because, as has been said, the purpose of the strike was to undermine the stability of the country, which is in the process of economic recovery."

According to unofficial statistics gathered by the newspapers, only 8,561 out of 163,470 workers of the industrial sector joined the strike. This affected only 0.9 percent of the work centers, that is, 47 out of 5,085 factories. It is also known that the country's mine and sugar workers worked normally. Yesterday the government declared the strike illegal.

Lima Returns to Normal

PA281605Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1557 GMT 28 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 28 Feb (AFP)--The capital of Peru today returned to normal on the 2d day of a 48-hour general strike called by leftist-influenced labor organizations. In contrast with the prudence shown yesterday by the people, private vehicles and small buses were circulating almost normally in downtown Lima. Stores began opening on time, without the delays of the previous day.

In factories in which workers were supporting the strike, operations were reduced, but in those in which the unions are controlled by the Peruvian Aprist Party and pro-government organizations, operations increased due to the relative return to normality of the transportation services. Barricades and rocks have almost all been removed from several avenues. The state-controlled Lima newspapers believe that the strike has been a failure and that the 600 arrests made in the country are the consequences of calls for vandalism, and not due to labor activity.

MINISTER VOWS TO CONTINUE AGRARIAN REFORM

FY25150 PY Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Feb 78 PY

[Text] The agriculture and nutrition minister has asserted that agrarian reform is a fact and a reality and it must continue because it is now part of Peruvian history. The history of the peoples is created through facts and realities, he added. General Arbulo Ibanez said that peoples [as nations] are not formed through speeches or demagogic and incoherent statements; they are created through viable actions, true and tangible facts. He added that the land is no longer in the hands of the big landowner, there are no large estates and there will be no return to a large estate system, because our agrarian reform must become consolidated. He asserted with the same emphasis that our agrarian reform will continue forward and it will never turn back, because we have advanced too far to return.

The minister recalled that 9 million hectares have been expropriated and 7.5 million have already been allotted. With the handing over of the remaining 1.5 million hectares, agrarian reform will have reached its appointed goal, he explained.

Arbulu Ibanez said that the agrarian reform process has only gone on for 8 years, and we must not think that in such a short time all will be a bed of roses and a complete success. He stressed the fact that the agrarian sector will consolidate the reform, because such is the will of the Peruvian people.

PERU TO REACH OIL SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN MARCH

PA261346Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1621 GMT 25 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpt] Lima, 25 Feb (AFP)--Oil from the Amazon region began to be pumped through secondary pipeline today. It will reach Peru's coastline in mid-March, when the country will become self-sufficient in oil. It was reported today that 40,000 barrels per day will be pumped from the fields being operated by the U.S.-owned Occidental Petroleum Company into the pipeline which connects with the trans-Andean pipeline. The latter pipeline has been in operation since last year.

The secondary pipeline, which is 253 km in length, was built by the Mexican enterprise PROTEYA, which completed it 2 months ahead of schedule.

Gen Juan Sanchez, Peruvian energy and mines minister, traveled to the northern region to be on hand for the inauguration of the pumping operation. He said that the project, which cost \$118 million, will be inaugurated in 1981, at which time Peru will cease to import oil.

COURT DENIES DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PARTIES

PY231650Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Feb 78 PY

[Text] The president of the Electoral Court said yesterday that there is no discrimination against political organizations. He said that the same requirements are being demanded of all political groups.

The president of the Electoral Court, Ulises Montoya, rejected the accusation made by (Jenaro Ledesma Inquieta), leader of the Popular Peasant, Worker, Student Front [Frente Obrero Campesino Estudiantil Popular--POCEP], that the registration of this party was suspended. (Ledesma) said that the court was using a discriminatory policy. He declared that on Tuesday or Wednesday of next week, the POCEP will complete the 40,000 signatures and the installation and operation of 12 departmental committees required by the court.

(Carmen de Guia), leader of the Peruvian Democratic Reformist Party [Partido Reformista Democrático Peruano], visited the Electoral Court to deliver a list with 10,000 of the 21,000 signatures which the party still needs to comply with requirements. Leaders of the Peruvian Communist Party also visited the electoral court to fulfill the court's requirements.

COMMUNIST PARTY PROVISIONALLY REGISTERED FOR ELECTIONS

PA241354Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0110 GMT 24 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 23 Feb (AFP)--The National Election Board has provisionally registered the Peruvian Communist Party (orthodox) for the June constituent assembly elections. The party's registration had been delayed because it had not proved that it had 12 active departmental committees. According to board president Ulises Montoya, this deficiency has already been overcome. The provisional registration will be effective in 19 days unless the board finds any irregularities.

The parties definitely registered as of now are Popular Action, National Peasants and Workers Front and Christian Democracy.

Besides the Communist Party, the Peruvian Democratic, American Revolutionary Popular Alliance, Popular Christian, National Union, Popular Democratic Union and Socialist Popular Action parties also have provisional registrations.

HAYA DE LA TORRE: ARMED FORCES REVOLUTION HAS FAILED

PA261308Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1549 GMT 25 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 25 Feb (AFP)--According to Victor Raul Haya de la Torre, leader of the American Revolutionary Popular Alliance (APRA), the armed forces revolution has failed. Speaking last night in Tacna, in the southernmost part of the country, the politician demanded that the new constitution establish guarantees against coups as well as respect for the popular vote. "The so-called armed forces revolution has achieved only failures and disenchantments," Haya de la Torre said, adding that after unleashing starvation it sought to establish a Peruvian soviet, a distorted type of communism.

He added that APRA will help correct what the bureaucracy and the false institutions have done wrong. He said that "the cost of living has not risen as a result of international economic conflicts, but due to the mismanagement of public affairs."

Commenting that an attempt had been made to imitate those who sought to turn Chile into a Soviet colony, Haya de la Torre affirmed that APRA's ideal is the existence of a large fatherland, the United States of Indo-America, feared by both U.S. and Soviet imperialism. He then said that the new constitution to be drafted by the assembly to be elected on 4 June must lay the groundwork for greater justice for all workers. Haya de la Torre proposed that this new constitution include "essential defenses of democracy, since alterations have resulted from midnight attacks during which military coups have been staged."

Finally, he said that the new constitution should also include an article which establishes that if an office is to be filled by election, the state cannot appoint someone to that office.

PRESIDENT PROMISES CHANGES TOWARD SOCIAL DEMOCRACY

PA270243Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0211 GMT 27 Feb 78 FA

[Text] Lima, 26 Feb (AFP)--Peruvian President Morales Bermudez tonight announced that he is about to present to the country a realistic economic restructuring program for the remainder of the military administration, which will end in 1980. The chief of state, who addressed the nation unexpectedly over radio and television, also asked "for the unity of all Peruvians to achieve the national goal, the essence of which is "our people's welfare." He also repeated that he will continue with the political plan outlined by the armed forces. This is the holding of constituent elections in June, and general elections in 1980, so that the people in a sovereign way will choose their own government.

Stressing that the military regime has made a self-analysis of its economic policy since 1970, the president said that "very soon" he will present to the people an economic revamping program to be conducted until 1980. He said that it is "a very realistic program which does not depart from our government plan, but which represents activities that we must undertake immediately to be able to reach substantial improvement goals in 1980." He asked workers and management for "great understanding," stressing that although we need foreign aid "which we are obtaining," the main effort must be made by Peruvians." The president also said that the great national goal is unity because it is impossible to build a country without unity. He said that this does not mean that all Peruvians think alike politically because "everyone is entitled to his own opinion and to criticize constructively, but no one has the right to destroy."

After saying that national goals are primarily aimed at our people's welfare, he said that the armed forces and the revolutionary government aim to continue the political opening. He said that the first step in this program is the election of a constituent assembly which will represent the will of the people." It is also "highly important," he said, for politicians to work in a realistic and positive manner for Peru so that transfer of power can be made easily "after several years of military rule, during which time there has been no true exercise of politics in our country."

In conclusion, he said that the military regime, which did not receive its mandate from the people, cannot transfer what it has not received, but that this will be done through a constituent assembly.

VENEZUELA, NETHERLANDS ANTILLES TO NEGOTIATE MARITIME BORDERS

PA241811Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 24 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Negotiations for a treaty on the delimitation of marine and submarine areas with the Netherlands Antilles begin today in Curacao. Therefore, a Venezuelan delegation left last night to participate in these talks. These negotiations are the result of the recent visit of Netherlands Antillean Minister-President Silvius Rozendaal to Venezuela. The Venezuelan delegation is made up of the director of borders, Rear Adm Luis Rafael (Lucas) Morales; the director general of international politics, Ambassador German Navas (Carrillo); the Venezuelan ambassador to the Low Countries, Marcial Perez Chiriboga; and advisers Isidro Morales, Justo Pastor (Farias) and Roberto (Malasio).

ARMY OFFICER REVEALS PLANS TO PROTECT GUAYANA AREA

PA251752Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 25 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Brig Gen John (Cobananck), chief of army engineering, has said that new garrisons will be established in Bolivar State and that the construction studies are ready to begin. General (Cobananck) said that the only thing lacking is the Defense Ministry's decision to begin work. He said that these new garrisons may be installed at various places in the large plains and the border areas. He added that since Guayana is a region undergoing full development, it is necessary to install new garrisons to protect its industry and natural energy sources.

POLICE ARREST STATE AD LEADER REGARDING STUDENT'S MURDER

PA281656Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 28 Feb 78 PA

[Text] The Judicial Technical Police [PTJ] have arrested political leader Raul Orfila in San Felipe in connection with the death of student Carlos Alberto Rivero Pacheco. Orfila is the organizational secretary of the Democratic Action [AD] in Yaracuy State. The PTJ in San Felipe is interrogating him intensively to determine his involvement in the murder.

COPEI LEADER BLAMES GOVERNMENT FOR VIOLENCE

PA281654Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 28 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Social Christian Party [COPEI] national leader Godofredo Gonzalez announced in Barcelona that his party rejects violence. He said that although increased violence has not been deliberately provoked by the government, it is responsible. COPEI President Godofredo Gonzalez said that he vigorously rejects violence as a political tool or weapon. Therefore, he urged the government to use the greatest possible amount of calm and seriousness to confront violence and find a solution.

MAS SEES GOVERNMENT AS CAUSE OF STUDENT UNREST

PA281708Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0022 GMT 28 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 27 Feb (EFE)--Pompeyo Marquez, secretary general of the Movement for Socialism (MAS), today criticized the government's actions regarding the student unrest over the past few days. Marquez said that the enforcement of all legal and police measures is translated in Venezuela into a violation of human rights. Marquez said that the government's talk of enforcing these measures to confront the student disorders is worrisome because every time this has been done the law, and even the constitution, have been violated. The extreme has been reached of "firing first and investigating later," he said.

The leader of Venezuela's third-ranking political group said that "the government has provoked these demonstrations by repeatedly using police in an inappropriate way." He recalled that on many occasions MAS has described as inconceivable the fact that no protest can be settled in Venezuela without a youth being killed. Marquez stressed that four youths have been killed during the latest disturbances; that the trouble was caused by a provocation by armed bands of the ruling Democratic Action Party in Yaracuy State; and that the government acts illegally when it resorts to brutality.

He said that MAS firmly condemns the police action in much the same way it disagrees with violent actions such as burning vehicles that only boomerang against the student movement.

The socialist leader said that the government should not exaggerate student demonstrations beyond their true dimensions regardless of whether they are staged against repression, to defend the right to study, or to demand minimum facilities at educational centers.

He said that the government must confront public disturbances with political measures and, in extreme cases, with measures that must not necessarily bring about the death of anyone who commits an outrage.

INTERIOR MINISTER MEETS WITH GOVERNORS ON BUDGET

PA272322Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 27 Feb 78 PA

[Text] An important meeting was held by Interior Minister Dr Octavio Lepage with state governors to inform them of the 7-percent cut in constitutional salaries [situado constitucional] for the purpose of adjusting to the budget cut decided by the cabinet on Tuesday.

Following is a report for Radio Reloj Continentente [name of program] at the close of the meeting by Dr Octavio Lepage:

[begin recording] At the meeting I held with state governors this morning, we examined many issues that contribute to the progress of the government and the federal departments. It was said that as is the case each year, the government has decided to make a 7 percent cut. Also, as is natural, this includes the funds of the state governorships.

[Question] Will this mean a cut in the budgets of the governorships?

[Answer] No! This sort of action is not necessary. It will be up to each governor to analyze in depth the work and the services being rendered and to make the necessary cuts in the areas that he feels are of lower priority so as to adjust to the 7-percent cut in his budget.

[Question] And regarding your office, Mr Minister: Which are cuts to be made there too?

[Answer] Well, now, regarding cuts in my office, the Ministry of Interior Budget includes the constitutional salary of governors. [end recording]

Finance Minister on Budget Reduction

PA010019Y Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 28 Feb 78 PA

[Text] The cabinet today approved a 2 billion bolivar reduction in this year's budget. Finance Minister Luis Jose Silva Luongo told newsmen at Miraflores Palace that this reduction will not affect investment plans and that projects which were approved this year will continue according to plan.

However, he added, those that will take from 2 to 3 years to be completed will be extended over a longer term. He also said that there will be no wage or salary cuts. Minister Silva Luongo said that the reduction represents only 5 percent and not 7, as reported before. The reductions are for those sectors which will not be seriously affected and items not of a priority nature, such as trips, per diem expenses and others.

Minister Silva Luongo said that the government is going to fulfill all previously contracted obligations including the public debt.

OIL SALES CONTRACTS SIGNED WITH 10 COUNTRIES

PA281648Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 28 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Venezuela has signed agreements with 10 countries to sell 100,000 barrels of oil a day. The contracts have been signed at the government-to-government level.

It was also learned that the Venezuelan Petroleum Company is accepting purchase offers for Venezuelan crude and byproducts.

So far, our country has signed agreements with Peru, Costa Rica, Mexico, Spain, Ivory Coast, Ecuador, Colombia, Chile, Canada and Italy.

COMMUNIST PARTY TO SEEK LEGALIZATION IN 1979

PA241304Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1731 GMT 22 Feb 78 PA

[By Jose Carreno]

[Text] Mexico City, 22 Feb (EFE)--The Mexican Communist Party [PCM] (tolerated) announced today that it will request its legalization and participation, for the first time in 30 years, in the 1979 elections. It will base its request on the political reform sponsored by the government. The decision is contained in a manifesto to the people which reports on the conclusions reached during a plenary session of the PCM Central Committee held on 7-8 February 1978. The Communists said that they will legally participate in the July 1979 legislative elections in order to obtain the party's legal registration, which is conditioned on the results of these elections.

According to the political parties and election law which was recently approved, the political organizations which want to register must obtain not less than 1.5 percent of the votes cast in a national election. This is in lieu of submitting the signatures of 65,000 members which the same law establishes as a minimum. The PCM, which has always boasted of having more members than the required number, has so far refrained from asking for its legalization in order to avoid submitting a list of its members, the number of which it has refused to reveal.

A PCM spokesman told EFE that a campaign to recruit members which ends in March has recruited 85,000 new members so far. The PCM doctrine is considered similar to Euro-communism. In the 1976 presidential election the PCM sponsored a candidate who was not legally registered and who, it claims, obtained almost 1 million votes.

In its manifesto the Mexican Communists urged all "supporters of democracy and socialism" to join its ranks or to vote for its candidates in the federal, state and local elections. The PCM has also declared itself willing to discuss a common program and to work for single candidates chosen by the Mexican left. Several tolerated parties, including the PCM, have been discussing the establishment of a leftist coalition. At the end of February the Mexican Workers Party will decide whether it will request legal registration and whether it will participate in the 1979 elections.

The Communists claim they are prepared to participate in next year's electoral campaign, "struggling against the limitations, pitfalls and maneuvers of a new electoral law" and struggling "so that the country's political leadership will change hands."

Other leftist political groups which are now working to become eligible for registration are the Socialist Revolutionary Party, the Mexican People's Party, the Socialist Workers Party and the Revolutionary Workers Party (Trotskyite). Only one rightist party, the Mexican Democratic Party, is working toward the same goal.

Recently, a high-ranking government official said that the PCM or a coalition of leftist groups could become the country's third largest political force, behind the Institutional Revolutionary Party and the National Action Party (moderate right).

PRESIDENT TO VISIT USSR, JAPAN, MAYBE PRC

FI282207Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2106 GMT 28 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City 28 Feb, (ANSA-INFORMEX)--The chief executive will visit the USSR in May and Japan in October, stated Foreign Relations Secretary Santiago Roel yesterday.

The foreign secretary added that an official visit this (?year) to the People's Republic of China is also being considered.

The Mexican president has received official invitations from Sweden, Romania, Bulgaria, Poland, the FRG and Jamaica. In the Latin American area, he has been invited by Brazil, Venezuela and Colombia. The possibility of making official visits to these countries is being studied.

BULGARIAN DELEGATION ARRIVES IN MEXICO

ID282037Y Sofia BTA in English 1836 GMT 28 Feb 78 ID

[Text] Mexico, February 28, Bulgarian delegation arrived here to take part in the celebrations to mark the centenary of the liberation of Bulgaria from Ottoman yoke. The delegation is headed by Mrs Lyudmila Zhivkova, chairman of the Committee for Culture.

In reply to the questions put to her by journalists on arrival in Mexico, Mrs L. Zhivkova expressed conviction that the talks she will have with Mexican leaders in the field of culture will make a contribution to the expansion of cooperation between the two countries.

Chairman Emphasizes Education

FI282206Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2104 GMT 28 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 28 Feb (ANSA-INFORMEX)--Governments should focus on the education of the poor sectors in developing nations because this will guarantee the most rapid advance for each nation, stated Republic of Bulgaria culture committee Chairman Lyudmila Zhivkova today, upon her arrival in this capital to preside over a number of cultural events which are part of Bulgarian movie week in this capital.

Mrs Zhivkova stated that there is always the need to implement the measures adopted, so that the cultural-economic equation becomes a reality in the cultural field.

She said that during her stay she will try to meet with the highest authorities in the country. And of course she already has meetings scheduled with the President of the Republic Jose Lopez-Portillo, the public education secretary and the National Institute of Fine Arts director.

She hopes that agreements can be reached from the meeting to permit increased cultural relations between Mexico and Bulgaria.

RADIO ACCUSES U.S. OF HYPOCRISY, IMMORALITY

PA281936Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 27 Feb 78 PA

[Osvaldo Gudino Aguilar commentary: "The Imperialist Immorality and the Justness of an Honest Cause"]

[Text] This station has for several days been broadcasting the U.S. Senate debates on the Torrijos-Carter treaties. It is important for our people to listen to the debates on the historical destiny of the canal treaty as well as to discover the real thoughts of the U.S. Senate regarding our people and the leaders of the liberation process we are experiencing. We would like to point out certain things so we can have a better concept of the opinions expressed in the U.S. Senate, the lies and false stories used by some irresponsible senators who will be judged by history.

We are tired of listening to remarks such as: Panama has a lot to thank the United States for and Panama would not be what it is today if it were not for the U.S. operation of the canal. We cannot ignore these statements. We have nothing to thank them for. On the contrary, we should blame them for the distortion of our nationality and for the biggest ripoff of the 20th century, which is the taking away of one of our natural resources for their use and profit.

Their cunning diplomacy has been widely unmasked during the present era. Their foreign policy shifts, which range from manifest destiny to the new dialog policy, together with the so-called defense of human rights, have died at birth thanks to the violent advance of the liberation movements.

They dare to speak of respect for human rights and insult our leaders when they try to cover up the criminal background of U.S. policy with underdeveloped countries. Let us look into events in the United States and elsewhere in the world where they are active. The State Department published a report analyzing human rights violations not in the United States but in 105 countries which receive U.S. aid and buy U.S. arms. Washington intends to remain in its arbitrary role of judge who unilaterally hands out sentences for human rights violations to states whether they are guilty or not. This is an absurd pretension because it comes from a country that has a long record of human rights violations which has tarnished the U.S. image abroad.

One should not be surprised at the hypocritical statements of the Carter administration on the defense of human rights and its direct support of dictatorial reactionary regimes which, like the United States, have violently trampled international agreements on human rights. To refresh the senators' memory regarding the above, we only have to mention countries like Rhodesia, South Africa, Nicaragua, Chile, Haiti, Guatemala, Paraguay, Brazil and the U.S. intervention in Middle East affairs, among others. We are not forgetting the innumerable interventions in Panama, of course, and the brutal aggression suffered by our people on 9 January 1964. If we review the international press files we can note things like: the Chicano leader Reyes Lopez' denunciation of the dreadful CIA and FBI campaign against him; the national alliance against racism and repression in the United States; the staging of a demonstration in front of White House for the liberation of the Wilmington 10; Puerto Rico, a country in which the United States has intervened; and the Cosa Nostra, a U.S.-Italian Mafia organization, carrying out kidnappings in Europe.

It is clear that the alleged human rights defenders are really the leading violators of these basic rights. Consequently, as our people go through very difficult moments--when reactionary senators are trying to kill the ratification of the treaties by making false and slanderous statements against Commander Torrijos, and when the traditional antipatriotic political parties join the ranks of their beloved Yankee masters by staging anti-Panamanian actions--we must keep on the alert so that this counter-revolution does not thrive in our country. The parties which will attempt to participate in the upcoming elections by sponsoring precandidates and stimulating the political environment to discredit our elections have an infamous alliance with those who are comfortably sitting in the Senate and who irresponsibly decide the destiny of the liberation struggle of our people and government. To those Americans who want to get rid of their traditional repressive image and who call for secret sessions to discredit our leaders, all that is left to tell them, with our deepest revolutionary feelings, is that they are the ones who are immoral.

COMPLAINTS MADE AGAINST ZONE POLICE IN INDIAN RESERVE

PA241732Y Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 24 Feb 78 p 16 PA

[Text] There is considerable indignation in the Bayano Indian Reservation over the recent expedition into the area by a group of Canal Zone policemen who were hunting. Several Indians told CRITICA that in the past few days they have seen a group of Zonian policemen hunting all kinds of wild animals there. The complainants allege that what makes them most indignant is the fact that a policeman by the name of Jaen is with them, the same person who shot and wounded a humble inhabitant of El Chorrillo some months ago.

The Indians consider this kind of hunting to be a mockery of the orders given by Agricultural and Development Minister Lt Col Ruben Dario Paredes, who has expressly forbidden the entrance of any non-Indians into the Indian reservation.

BUSINESSMEN APPEAL REJECTED BID FOR WAGE FREEZE

PA271803Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 27 Feb 78 p 6a PA

[Letter dated 24 February 1978 from the National Council of Private Enterprise to Labor Minister Adolfo Ahumada]

[Text] Dear Mr Minister:

A request for a moratorium on salary increases filed by the Panama Chamber of Construction [CAPAC], which is a member of the National Council of Private Enterprise [CONEP], has been denied and, in addition, the General Labor Directorate has recommended that the firms affiliated with CAPAC file their request for a moratorium individually.

This attitude has come as a complete surprise to us because the petition was filed according to the laws in effect and on behalf of the affiliated firms.

The Labor Ministry had not only previously approved but had encouraged the negotiation and signing of a collective bargaining contract between CAPAC and two labor unions, which had positive results. The present polarization and atomization of the parties involved in these collective labor relations are not only harmful to but damage the normal development these relations had experienced in the past few years.

To now deny CAPAC's status as a representative body is extremely confusing because the labor law expressly recognizes this representative right of the organizations of both employers and workers.

Since we are aware of your great interest in the development and strengthening of social organizations not only on the basis of national legislation but on clear provisions of an international nature, such as the agreements with the International Labor Organization, we are certain that you will use your good offices to correct this error which, if it persists, may generate doubts and distrust among entrepreneurs about the role given in our country to such important organizations as CAPAC.

Very truly yours,

[Signed] Pedro Regnani, president

GOVERNMENT MISSIONS TO SIGN LOAN, BOND ISSUANCES ABROAD

PA280258Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 27 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Two Panamanian Government missions will leave this week, one to Europe to sign a \$170 million loan agreement and another to Asia to sell bonds on the Asian stock market for \$77 million.

The group going to Europe is headed by Vice President Gerardo Gonzalez, who jointly with Banco Nacional Manager Ricardo de la Espriella and National Comptroller Damian Castillo, will sign a loan agreement for \$170 million at 1 and 7/8 percent interest rate over the London interest rate. This loan which will be signed in London on 3 March, has a 2 1/2 year grace period and will be repaid in 7 years. The loan will be used for development and housing projects. Vice President Gonzalez and the comptroller will leave for London tomorrow for the signing ceremony of the \$170 million loan which was negotiated through the First Bank of Chicago.

The mission going to Tokyo and Singapore is headed by the government's economic adviser, Ernesto Perez Balladares. On Tuesday he will sign a contract for 10 billion yen--about \$40 million to \$42 million--in Tokyo. The comptroller will ratify it on behalf of the nation. The 10 billion yen bond issue will pay 7.8 percent interest in 6-month installments and will expire in 10 years.

On 9 March Perez Balladares and Castillo will sign and ratify another bond issue in Singapore. This one will be for \$35 million at 9.5 percent annual interest, to be paid in yearly installments for a 5-year term and with the holders' option of extending for 5 more years. A \$3 million repurchase fund has been established for this holders' option. The funds obtained from the bond issues will be used to finance part of the government investment programs, reported a government spokesman to TV-2.

EL SALVADOR

SECURITY INCREASED TO THWART POSSIBLE INCIDENTS

PA281938Y San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1720 GMT 28 Feb 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] In view of the fact that opposition groups have planned various activities throughout the country, rural and urban security corps have stepped up vigilance throughout the nation. In the metropolitan area of San Salvador, vigilance has been intensified, including the use of helicopters. Highways and access roads to San Salvador are controlled and town squares such as libertad Plaza are heavily guarded.

A requiem mass has been announced for noon today in the cathedral for the wife of opposition presidential candidate Col Ernesto Cardenal. So far, no confrontations between civilians and the security corps have been reported.

BPR HOLDS PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION; TWO BOMBS EXPLODE

PA010129Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2330 GMT 28 Feb 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 28 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--A demonstration of the leftist Popular Revolutionary Bloc (BPR) today marched through the streets of Ciudad Delgado, 4 km north of downtown San Salvador. According to reports, there were no incidents despite strict surveillance by security bodies to maintain order.

The BPR announced several activities today to commemorate the bloody street disturbances 1 year ago when the opposition denounced fraudulent elections.

Meanwhile, it was reported that a bomb exploded today in the headquarters of the ruling National Conciliation Party (PCN) in the city of San Vicente, 68 km east of San Salvador. The terrorist group Farabundo Marti Popular Liberation Forces (FPL) has taken credit for that attack.

Another bomb exploded in the house of farmer Carlos Garcia Prieto in San Miguel.

GUATEMALA

STRIKE BY GOVERNMENT WORKERS SPREADS

PA281856Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1632 GMT 28 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpts] Guatemala City, 28 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The strike begun last Thursday in Guatemala by government workers is apparently spreading today uncontrollably.

Public high school students today went on strike and at noon telephone and communications services will be suspended in support of the state telephone communications personnel. Also expected at any moment is a strike by the personnel of the electric enterprise and the National Electrification Institute.

The Union of Bakers and Associated Workers is waiting, but a strike is imminent, as is that of other unions, all united in their demand for a salary increase.

On their part, university student associations have begun issuing statements backing the striking workers and more direct support is expected at any moment, that is, a strike.

State hospitals are advising relatives of patients that they should come for them as there is no personnel to take care of them. The only services operating are emergency services and intensive care for the more critically ill patients.

In the past few hours, a series of meetings to resume dialog as a means to solve the impasse have failed, including one called by congress president Deputy Rafael Castillo Valdez.

Political parties have asked that state workers grant a "truce" to permit elections to be held next Sunday, 5 March, but the emergency strike committee of the state workers has rejected "all interference by politicians."

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS TO BE HELD ON SCHEDULE

PA281631Y Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 1300 GMT 28 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City--Rolando Archila Marroquin, assistant secretary of public relations of the presidential palace, yesterday stated emphatically that the elections will not be suspended for any reason. Immediate and practical solutions will be adopted, he said, but under no circumstances can it be said there will be no elections on 5 March. He added that any problem directly affecting the electoral process will be promptly settled.

It was also learned that the Government Ministry's printing shop director yesterday morning delivered the corresponding documents to the director of the Electoral Registry. These documents will be used on Sunday, 5 March, in the process for the election of the president, the vice president, deputies and mayors. The delivery of these documents is of particular interest because it allows sufficient time to supply the various electoral districts with the required documents for the election.

Meanwhile, the government issued a press communique last night announcing that the cabinet had met yesterday morning to discuss the reports on the public employees' work stoppage. The communique pointed out that the finance minister promised the president of the republic to submit a study this afternoon on the possibility of wage increases for the public employees.

This is the same study which President Laugerud Garcia promised the representatives of the public employees on 16 February when it was agreed that a mixed committee of the government and the workers would jointly study means to find a satisfactory solution to the problem.

LAUGERUD ADDRESSES NATION, CONCEDES SALARY INCREASES

PA010559Y Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 0400 GMT 1 Mar 78 PA

[Speech to the nation by Guatemalan President Laugerud Garcia--live]

[Excerpts] This afternoon at a cabinet meeting we first analyzed the country's financial capabilities; second, the demands of the government workers emergency committee; and, third, the interests of the taxpayers, you. We did this to determine what resources we have to grant a just salary increase within the real possibilities of the state. The possibilities must be real, not fictitious, because I would be the last person to order the printing of currency in order to fulfill the aspirations or demands presented in the documents to which I have already referred.

Based on this exhaustive study, this afternoon the government arrived at the decision I am about to inform you of. I want to reaffirm that this decision to grant a new salary increase to government workers marks the fifth time that my administration has granted such an increase to government workers. This is not the first time; it is the fifth.

This afternoon I made the following decision: a new wage and salary scale for government workers [words indistinct] as of 1 January 1978. The salary increase scale was drafted in the following manner: Those workers whose initial salary is from 40 to 100 quetzals will receive a 60-quetzal monthly increase. The number of government workers benefited will be 36,931 at an annual cost of 26,591,320 quetzals. Those government workers earning between 101 and 200 quetzals will receive a (?50-) quetzal increase. This will benefit 36,454 workers and will cost 21,862,400 quetzals per year. Those government workers earning from 201 to 300 quetzals will receive a 40-quetzal increase, which will benefit 7,618 workers and cost 13,656,640 quetzals per year. Retired government workers will receive a 10-quetzal monthly increase. This will benefit 10,000 retired government workers and cost 1.2 million quetzals. Workers on provisional payrolls will receive a 9-quetzal monthly increase. This will benefit some 50,000 at a total of 15 million quetzals. In all, the new salary increase scale will benefit 142,003 government workers with a yearly cost of 68,824,360 quetzals.

In order to be able to meet this salary increase for government workers, the government must freeze all new jobs considered within the 1978 budget and will be compelled to suspend the construction of important government projects. These will be disclosed in the future.

In announcing this salary increase, it is my duty to warn you that the government just cannot give any more. This is final and is not subject to bargaining of any kind.

I shall send this bill to the National Congress when all the workers have returned to their jobs. I also want to take advantage of this opportunity to speak to industrialists and businessmen. I want to appeal to them and at the same time warn that that it is not humane, fair or right for them to raise prices at will each time the government makes a sacrifice to increase government workers' salaries. Neither is it humane, just or right to enrich oneself at the cost of hunger for other Guatemalans.

I want to warn these industrialists and businessmen that if they persist in their indiscriminate attitude, it will lead the nation to a situation with tragic consequences for all Guatemalans. I say this today so that tomorrow you will not say you were not warned in time.

This is why the wage increases that I am announcing today will be higher for those who earn less and who, as is often the case, are the ones that work the hardest. But this increase must also be given to government workers, and this implies sacrificing some public works projects and canceling planned new jobs that cannot be created this year.

I also have the duty of telling government workers that taxpayers pay our salaries, and it is not fair that because of our personal actions, taxpayers are not receiving the treatment they are entitled to in any public office in any department of the government.

Also, for this same reason, I reiterate and repeat my demand that all government workers report at their jobs tomorrow and fulfill their duty to the nation and to the rest of the people of Guatemala. If they do not go to work, I also wish to warn them that nonacceptance of this new salary schedule and the continuation of the strike will be considered an open challenge to the government of the republic and to the political community for blocking the 5 March elections.

Fellow citizens, tonight I want to say that I would like to confirm my irrevocable decision that the elections will be held on the date scheduled, Sunday, 5 March. I wish to inform you also that I have taken all needed steps to guarantee to the people their right to elect freely, democratically and normally.

BRIEFS

NICKEL PRODUCTION--Economy Minister Ramiro Ponce Mcnroy announced the first shipment of nickel mined in (?Zabal) Department will leave the country on 25 February. The minister said that 1.22 million pounds of nickel worth approximately 2.5 million quetzales will be shipped from Santo Tomas de Castilla. [Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 1300 GMT 25 Feb 78 PA]

NICARAGUA

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON CLASHES IN MASAYA, ELSEWHERE

'Cleanup' Operation in Masaya

PA281644Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1630 GMT 28 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 28 Feb (ACAN-BFE)--One rebel was killed and seven soldiers were wounded according to an official account released today by the army after "operation cleanup" staged last night in Masaya. A communique issued by the National Guard legal and public relations office and signed by Col Aquiles Aranda Escobar states that "authorities have restored order" in that city, 30 km east of Managua. It adds that "certain subversive elements together with professional agitators attacked private property in Masaya, setting cars and private homes on fire and disrupting public order by firing indiscriminately at the people to prevent the free movement of the public." An unidentified young man was killed when he fired at military patrols.

In the meantime, two university students in Managua were killed last night.

The communique goes on to mention the identification of one of the seven alleged members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) who died on Sunday in a confrontation with police patrols at the junction of the small town of Catarina in Masaya Department. He is Arnoldo Quant Ponce, alias "Nahault," who began his subversive activities as a student leader in the Ramirez Goyena national institute in 1971.

The communique of the National Guard legal and public relations office details a number of actions of rural and urban agitation carried out by the dead rebel, concluding last year when, after a spell in the mountains as an FSLN guerrilla, he sought asylum in the Costa Rican Embassy in this capital.

In the Catarina conflict, a member of the National Guard died and another was seriously injured. It was also learned unofficially that Sgt Ismael Garcia, who was shot during the bloody events last Sunday in the city of Diriamba, south of the capital, has died in the military hospital.

Masaya Toll Uncertain

PA281731Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1714 GMT 28 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 28 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The exact number of civilians and soldiers killed in the Masaya uprising will not be known for some time. Persons arriving in Managua today from the Masaya department center, 30 km east of Managua, said that after the air and ground attack by army forces last night it was difficult to give an estimate of the total number of casualties.

One eyewitness, who did not give his name, said he saw an officer and soldier of the National Guard fall by his side after a young man no older than 15 fired at them with a .38 caliber revolver.

"In Masaya the smell of gunpowder is everywhere and, despite the government's overwhelming power, the rebellion was not stopped last night," a newsman said.

Public Works Ministry workers were unable to clean to clean up all the obstacles and bonfires on the corners of the different sections of the city.

Ismael Reyes, president of the Nicaraguan Red Cross, went to Masaya in the afternoon and said the work of the institution's personnel is very difficult. The top Red Cross leader in Nicaragua added that during his stay 20 wounded persons were brought in by Red Cross units.

The situation this morning was of tense calm after 24 hours of violence between demonstrators and the army.

UN Intervention Requested

PA010153Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0109 GMT 1 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 28 Feb (AFP)--It was officially announced today that the Nicaraguan standing human rights commission has requested UN intervention in the city of Masaya, which was heavily attacked by the Nicaraguan Army early this morning. Jose Esteban Gonzalez, commission chairman, sent a message to UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim noting that the army's counteroffensive to retake Masaya and restore order resulted in hundreds of dead, wounded and missing.

At dawn the army staged an attack with armored cars equipped with machineguns, combat helicopters and small-caliber cannons. It is estimated that at least 500 men were involved in the offensive. In addition to the toll of victims, a large part of Masaya's Indian ghetto, made up of very poor housing, was razed. Relief groups have been set up to provide food and medicine to the people while brigades of the Ministry of Public Works clean up the city, where traffic was impossible due to the barricades and burned cars.

Masaya Surrenders; 100 Dead

PA282313Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2246 GMT 28 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 28 Feb (AFP)--The city of Masaya, which became a symbol of resistance against Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza's regime, surrendered today to government troops after a week of siege by the National Guard at a cost of more than 100 dead. The cannon and machineguns of the troops sent by the government finally overwhelmed the defenders of the Monimbo Indian district, where some 12,000 defenders had fought with improvised weapons for 7 days and repeatedly resisted attacks by Somoza's troops.

Guardsmen Patrol Masaya

PA010517Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0330 GMT 1 Mar 78 PA

[Text] National Guard units are constantly patrolling the city of Masaya and have the situation under control. The Santa Rosa District of Masaya has lived in terror since Sunday night when subversive groups demanded money and other aid from the people of that district. These criminals who cover their faces with handkerchiefs and brandish guns kept the entire district in a state of siege until military units arrived Monday morning to restore order and clear the streets and the highway to Granada.

According to our special correspondents, the subversive groups kept the citizens in a state of terror. The night watchmen at the Inca Company were forced to give up their arms. They were asked to turn over barbed wire and tacks, and if they refused, they were threatened with being burned alive.

Sporadic shots and explosions continued last night. The military is continuing to patrol the city, including those sectors in which the subversive elements are strong.

Appeal for Calm

PA010545Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0330 GMT 1 Mar 78 PA

[Text] A Piper Cub flew over Masaya for several hours yesterday asking the people to remain calm and not to listen to subversive elements who are only seeking to divide and harm the Nicaraguan people. The appeal for peace and calm is being voiced by Nicaraguan authorities to counter the terrorist campaign that certain elements have been conducting for several days in Masaya.

In the message to the people in Masaya, the authorities said they did not want any bloodshed or violence, as do those who do not wish either peace or progress for the Nicaraguan people. Contrary to these appeals for peace, the enemies of the fatherland were painting on the walls of buildings threats to store owners saying: If you open, you die.

Violence, terror and coercion are the arms used by the terrorists to threaten the people and obtain their ignoble objectives. Residents from various neighborhoods in Masaya said they cannot tolerate any longer the violence and terror unleashed by a minority which wants to plunge the nation into chaos.

Radios Closed 'As Precaution'

PA010218Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Feb 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Excerpt] Lt Col Alberto Luna Solorzano, radio and television office chief, reported at noon today that the suspension of the transmissions of the radio station Mi Preferida was due to an order issued by the Managua police court as a precautionary measure. The ruling notes that it is based on Article 61 of the radio and television code which states that police officers can adopt precautionary measures.

Mi Preferida went off the air last night when two transmission corps officers arrived at the station and removed the crystal of the electronic equipment. Radio Mundial was also closed at 1230 following orders by the chief of the radio and television office. National stations run the risk of being closed down if they continue to broadcast news of the incidents that are taking place in the country. Colonel Luna feels that this is a precautionary measure.

Guard Attacks Subtiava Community

PA010155Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0102 GMT 1 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Leon, Nicaragua, 28 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--At least six persons were wounded this afternoon when the National Guard attacked the Indian community of Subtiava, a town located in the western part of the country. The Indians, who are conducting an opposition movement to the government similar to the one that the Indians of Monimbo in Masaya began 15 days ago, are armed with rifles, revolvers, machetes, sticks and slings loaded with explosives.

A number of students from the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua (UNAM) joined the Indians in a demonstration march, accompanied by the beating of drums, through some parts of the city and finally gathered in Subtiava's square, where they set up barricades.

Spokesmen for the Red Cross in Leon, the city in which the immortal Ruben Dario was born, told ACAN-EFE that ambulances were not allowed to go in to tend to the wounded. The drivers were forced at gunpoint to leave the premises, the spokesmen said. National Guard patrols have the community of Subtiava under seige, and more fighting is expected tonight.

The magnitude of this afternoon's incidents is not known because no one is allowed to go near the place of the incidents.

Heavy Casualties Reported

PA010407Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0340 GMT 1 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 28 Feb (LATIN)--An undetermined number of people were killed and a large number wounded during the serious fighting today between the Subtiava Indian community and the National Guard, eyewitnesses to the fighting near the northwestern city of Leon said. A Red Cross spokesman in Leon also told this agency over the phone that "the shooting continues in Subtiava, barricades have been erected of burned buses and bricks, and no one is allowed to enter." The Red Cross spokesman said he did not know the number of casualties. He said, "They have not called us because it seems that the people of Subtiava do not want to bring their wounded."

Leon is located 90 km from Managua. The nucleus of the anti-Somoza rebellion is concentrated in the Subtiava community, located in the western area of Leon's outskirts, where 10,000 people reside.

The Subtiava Indians are famous for being the most warlike and best organized group in Nicaragua. They still assemble to the sound of drums which are used by community leaders during emergency situations.

Leon residents tonight stated, even though it was not confirmed, that there were several dead and a large number of people wounded in the fighting, "as the shooting heard at 1700 was intense."

The residents of Leon have described the situation in this city as "very delicate" ever since National Guard reinforcements arrived aboard helicopters from Managua earlier this afternoon.

"The fighting began at 1100 this morning shortly after the Subtiava Indians seized the city's airport for a short period for the purpose of seizing the watchmen's weapons. In all they took a shotgun, several pistols and a rifle," they added. They pointed out that the Subtiavas "are armed with shotguns, .22 caliber rifles, Molotov cocktails, pistols and machetes."

Along with the Indians' resistance to the National Guard, students were demonstrating tonight on the streets of Leon to protest the death of three university students. The demonstrators burned down a dancehall belong to Economy Minister Roger Blandon, damaged the home of Somozist Deputy Francisco Argenal Papi and threw stones at the homes of several standing Somoza supporters. They also set several buses on fire.

Residents of Leon also reported that this morning Subtiava Indians had set fire to a storage room of the Tona brewery, which belongs to one of the companies that backed a recent strike. The Indians took some 30,000 cordobas (some \$4,300) from the safe and distributed it among the people.

A Red Cross spokesman who was questioned by this agency also said that tonight clashes were taking place in several parts of Leon, among them the districts of Guadalupe, Zaragoza and Laborio. It was not known if there were any casualties.

More Strikes Planned

PA010140Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0126 GMT 1 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 28 Feb (AFP)--The opposition Democratic Liberation Union and eight labor centrals today declared a 24-hour strike for tomorrow, Wednesday, to protest last night's army attack on Masaya. This afternoon the private business leaders of Nicaragua held an emergency meeting, from which measures could emerge such as those which led to the 24-day general strike initiated on 10 January.

The situation remains tense in Managua and the rest of the country, especially in Leon, Jinotepe and Diriamba, where protest marches are underway and cars are being burned.

University Decrees Mourning

PA010437 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Feb 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Excerpt] The board of the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua met this morning in the city of Leon and decided to decree 2 days of mourning for the three students killed on the campus of Ruben Dario University in Managua yesterday. The period of mourning will last through Wednesday. School should resume on Thursday at the Managua, Leon and Jinotepe university facilities.

It was originally felt that the university officials would suspend school (?altogether) and hold examinations.

The board of the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua also decided to postpone freshmen registration, which had been scheduled to begin tomorrow. This is the second time registration has been postponed due to disturbances.

Warning to University Authorities

PA010442Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0330 GMT 1 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Two police jeeps were shot at by snipers with submachineguns inside the university. Shielded by the university's autonomy, which has been turned into a state within a state, the students are extremely hostile.

It is time the authorities at the university take the necessary measures to end this abnormal situation, which is making the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua a sanctuary for terrorism. For the past 6 months, the extreme left has been interrupting classes almost every day, conducting demonstrations and carrying out terrorist explosions, to the detriment of students who really want to study. Yesterday they went so far as to set up a machinegun inside the university to be used against the police, whose duty is to maintain public order.

Workers To Stage Strike

PA011340Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1315 GMT 1 Mar 78 PA

[By Ricardo Ritter and Agustin Fuentes]

[Excerpts] Managua, 1 Mar (LATIN)--A political and labor strike and the funeral of one of the three university students shot by the National Guard are today threatening to increase the violence which has been going on in Nicaragua for the past 2 months.

The Democratic Liberation Union (UDEL), the opposition's most important political organization, the Independent General Labor confederation [Confederacion General del Trabajo Independiente--CGTI] and the Union of Nicaraguan Workers (CTN) called a 24-hour strike to coincide with the burial of university student Jorge Manrique Arauz.

Labor leaders said that hundreds of workers may attend Arauz' funeral. He was shot together with two companions 2 days ago when the Guard fired on students of the National Autonomous University in Managua.

Meanwhile, businessmen who tried to overthrow Somoza with their strike at the end of January last night chose as the new president of the Nicaraguan Development Institute (INDE) Manuel Jose Barrios, replacing Alfonso Robello, who declined the position in order to dedicate himself completely to politics.

RADIO REPORTS ON TEAR GASSING OF MASAYA, NICARAGUA

PA282043Y Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Feb 78 PA

[Text] In a desperate attempt to stop the growing hostility of the people of Masaya, Nicaraguan chief of state Anastasio Somoza ordered the air force to bomb the city with tear gas. Military occupation of Masaya started on Monday with the use of armored vehicles. Eyewitnesses revealed that hundreds of persons were affected by the gases and that the repression of the inhabitants of Masaya has caused a high death toll.

However, according to the most recent reports, resistance still continues in the Indian district of Monimbo, whose inhabitants have so far been able to repel all National Guard attacks.

In a communique issued by the regime today, the military forces are authorized--in cases deemed necessary--to repel by force of arms any demonstrations against the government.

Last night in Managua, sympathizers of the regime fired upon a demonstration staged by students of the National Autonomous University who had been demanding the resignation of the tyrant, Somoza. The toll of this police action was two students, Jorge Enrique Arauz and Martin Zeledon. Fidel Prado and Professor Goody were wounded.

Somoza's military also took another group of wounded students and professors by force from Red Cross ambulances in what is felt may become another massacre.

CUBA-GDR COOPERATION COMMISSION MEETING OPENS

FL281250Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Feb 78 FL

[Text] The eighth intergovernmental meeting of the Cuba-GDR joint commission for economic, scientific and technical cooperation opened today in Havana City. The delegations are presided over by Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the PCC Politburo and vice president of Cuba's councils of state and ministers, and GDR Ambassador to Cuba Heinz Langer. During the plenary session, topics of mutual interest and matters dealing with the working sessions of the joint commission were discussed.

BULGARIAN DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER RECEIVED BY CASTRO, DEPARTS

FL281240Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 28 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee, yesterday received at the Palace of the Revolution Col Gen Atanas Semedzhiev, member of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee, first deputy defense minister and chief of the Bulgarian People's Army General Staff.

Col Gen Atanas Semedzhiev is visiting our country at the invitation of Army Gen Raul Castro, second secretary of the PCC Central Committee and minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces.

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Leaves for Home

FL281909Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Col Gen Atanas Semedzhiev, first deputy defense minister, chief of the Bulgarian People's Army General Staff and member of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee, left last night to return to his country. Seeing him off at the air terminal in Rancho Boyeros were Division Generals Senen Casas and Rigoberto Garcia, Revolutionary Armed Forces first vice minister-chief of the General Staff and vice minister, respectively, and Vice Adm Also Santamaria, vice minister-chief of the Revolutionary Navy, all members of the PCC Central Committee.

CASAS REGUEIRO MEETS WITH ALGERIAN DELEGATION

FL281857Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Div Gen Senen Casas, first vice minister-chief of General Staff, has welcomed at the Revolutionary Armed Forces Ministry Commander (Labib Belkayr), director of the Algerian People's National School [as heard], and the rest of the Algerian military delegation here on a visit.

FMC NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD

FL010229Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 Mar 78 FL

[Text] This afternoon, the first meeting of 1978 of the Federation of Cuban Women--FMC--National Committee and Cooperation Council came to an end at the Fe del Valle national cadre school. The afternoon session was opened with declarations supporting the sugar harvest, the incorporation of youths into nursing courses and the resolution of solidarity with women and people of the world. They also agreed to send a letter to our commander in chief, Fidel Castro.

The first meeting of the FMC National Committee and Cooperation Council began this morning with the attendance of Armando Acosta, FMC President Vilma Espin and Elena Gil, all Central Committee members; along with FMC Secretary General Dora Carcano, Central Committee alternate member, and other women leaders. The central report was ready by Vilma Espin.

[begin Espin recording] Comrades, this central report recounts in compact form the work undertaken by our organization in 1977. We hope that it offers the National Committee and its Cooperation Council all the necessary elements to carry out the review of the work for that year. It is not easy to sum up the experiences gained over a period which has required extraordinary efforts by our cadres at all levels, since it covers the first period of operation of the FMC organizations under our country's new political-administrative division. We have tried to examine the fundamental aspects of the work undertaken in each work area through a critical analysis which reflects a positive review of the work undertaken by the federation during the period just completed. The work plan for 1977 ended successfully upon the completion, in the second semester of the year, of the pledge given to the PCC Politburo 22 July which dealt with the 11th World Youth and Students Festival emulation. [end recording]

RODRIGUEZ ADDRESSES MINCEX-MINREX MEETING ON EMULATION

FL281120Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Feb 78 FL

[Text] The Cuban revolution has put our country of less than 11 million inhabitants on the top levels of international policy and has given the people enormous responsibilities, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez has stated. The PCC Politburo member and Council of State vice president made the closing remarks at the assembly meeting on emulation held by the Foreign Trade Ministry [MINCEX] and the Foreign Ministry [MINREX]. Others presiding over the event were PCC Central Committee members Marcelo Fernandez and Isidoro Malmierca, ministers of the MINCEX and MINREX, respectively. Also present were Mario Machin, secretary general of the Public Administration Workers Trade Union, and other leaders of the sector.

Minister Marcelo Fernandez said in a speech that the MINCEX administration firmly supports the commitments signed with the MINREX and that he considers the emulation between the two offices a very wise step. For his part, Isidoro Malmierca referred to the joy with which the MINREX workers presented their challenge and the equally enthusiastic manner with which their MINCEX comrades welcomed it.

In closing Carlos Rafael Rodriguez congratulated the MINCEX and MINREX workers for the gains made and for the success of the emulating challenge which, he said, will have neither winners nor losers because we all work for a common benefit, the revolution.

ALMEIDA DECORATES MININT COMBATANTS 28 FEB

FL281310Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Feb 78 FL

[Text] In a ceremony held at Mangos de Baragua, Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida Bosque, member of the PCC Politburo and vice president of the Council of State, today decorated a group of Interior Ministry [MININT] combatants who were awarded the 1977 National Vanguard medal. For their part, Brigadier Generals Calixto Garcia and Irving Ruiz and Comrade Jose Ramon Balaguer, first secretary of the party in Santiago de Cuba Province, all members of the PCC Central Committee, decorated a group of 90 MININT combatants.

GRANMA EDITORIAL URGES GREATER HARVEST EFFORTS

FL281612Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 28 Feb 78 FL

[Text] To work in the harvest with the courage and perseverance of our heroic internationalists--that is the title of today's frontpage GRANMA editorial dedicated to the harvest. The editorial begins by pointing out that the examination made in the recent national harvest meeting revealed that the present sugar crop is considerably behind schedule. It points out that the situation is grave and that all workers, party members, trade unions and the administration should be aware of it and should adopt the measures deemed necessary.

GRANMA states that our economy, in the midst of great difficulties and by observing a rigorous policy of austerity and planning, has been able to confront the capitalist world crisis in recent years and that, in order to be successful now, the proper effort must be made. The increase in production anticipated for this harvest means more resources for the country. All the sugar has been sold. That is why it is our duty to guarantee those deliveries to the USSR and other socialist countries, not only because of the economic problems that would be created, but also because Cuba's prestige and reputation are at stake.

The PCC Central Committee organ adds that the unusually rainy season has affected the yield and milling in many places, but that not all shortcomings can be blamed on the rain alone. There are factors, the editorial states, that depend on the effort, organization and capabilities of the men. The drop in cutting, lifting and milling of sugarcane at the beginning of the week and on weekends is of concern, because it causes the loss of almost one workday every week.

It points out that in the provinces of Matanzas, Cienfuegos and Havana milling is maintained consistently throughout the week and mentions measures adopted by the party in Camaguey which have contributed to higher-yielding and stable milling. The six provinces where the harvest situation is most critical are Las Tunas, Villa Clara, Holguin, Camaguey, Ciego de Avila and Granma. It is essential that in all provinces, but above all in these, greater efforts be made to carry out higher-yielding, stable and efficient milling. Another important aspect that must be given immediate attention is the recruitment of forces to cut by hand, since some 8,000 men are needed in the canefields nationally. At the same time that these measures are adopted, the GRANMA editorial points out, the battle to raise the level of productivity and promote participation of the different forces in canecutting must continue. Some provinces still report very low levels of productivity and participation.

Fulfillment of daily tasks and strict supervision at railroad sidings, gathering centers, brigades, platoons, operation of machinery and hauling equipment and sugar mills must unavoidably become a matter of principle.

Examining the harvest, today's GRANMA editorial states: Because of the grave situation, the entire country must prepare for the possibility of having to mill more cane and prolong the harvest until the plan is fulfilled. The sugar industry, it points out, must prepare for a long harvest under rainy conditions. The PCC Central Committee organ states that there also is a delay in sugar exports and that the main problems to solve in this field are caused by organization and transportation. It also stresses that not only are there delays in this harvest's tasks but that there is a considerable delay in the preparations for the 1979-1980 harvest. The editorial adds that there are shortcomings in bulldozing and preparation of land, in planting, in cultivation and in fertilizing which pose a threat to plans for improving new areas in coming years.

The country must apply the previously mentioned measures starting now in order to guarantee the fulfillment, under all circumstances, of sugar production scheduled for this year, the editorial affirms. The next 100 days are most decisive. The party organ calls on all harvest workers and all our people to make an extraordinary, sustained and truly heroic effort during this period of time. We must guarantee this harvest's victory at all costs and overcome the setbacks in agriculture. The fatherland and the revolution have assigned us this task. We will face up to it at a time when thousands of Cubans who, far away from our land, fulfill with honor and selflessness their sacred internationalist duties. In closing the editorial states: That is why the response to the appeal of our party and Fidel must be this one--we will fulfill the harvest's decisive task during these 100 days with the same courage, perseverance, enthusiasm, spirit of victory and devotion to duty that our heroic internationalists display.

BALAGUER CRITICIZES PRD, PRAISES COMMUNISTS

PA281722Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0050 GMT 26 Feb 78 PL

[By Rosendo Sepulveda]

[Text] Santo Domingo, 27 Feb--In his speech to the legislative chambers today to mark the 134th anniversary of the independence of the Dominican Republic, President Joaquin Balaguer praised the communists while harshly criticizing the social democrats of the Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD). In a speech he delivered without notes that was more than 1 hour long, the Dominican president excoriated the PRD, the main opposition party, saying that it had lost its natural characteristics as a party of the vanguard and had become an "elitist and retrograde" organization.

With regard to the PRD's ideological guidelines and its program of government if it should come to power on 16 May, Balaguer said that the PRD has taken a great step backward with its new provisional program of government. He said that the basis of the program might be "capitulation or to set a trap for the people." As Balaguer was making these charges against the PRD, he stopped speaking and played a portion of a recording of the latest speech by Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, PRD secretary general, for the benefit of all listeners and television viewers: "The dominant forces which oppose us are still too strong and the fears which the PRD generates among ill-informed and timorous people are still too great. We are obliged to make deals and to compromise. Consequently, this first PRD government will only be a preparatory phase of the revolutionary process promised by our organization."

At the end of the Pena Gomez statement, President Balaguer extended his arm in a gesture which encompassed all those present in the room--which included all the accredited ambassadors in the country--and said: "Nothing could be clearer."

President Balaguer noted all the changes [of direction] made by the PRD from 1966 to the present and then pointed to the example of the recently legalized Dominican Communist Party, which he professed to admire because of the political singlemindedness which it has always maintained and its fierce nationalism on behalf of the country's have-nots. "I do not share their convictions," Balaguer said, "but I admire their unyielding principles, the fierce nationalism they demonstrate in public life, the demands they make in favor of justice for our dispossessed classes and some of their basic concepts of Dominican history." The president said that the communists have always been feared, but that today the only way to fight them is to give them representative legalization. [as received] In this regard, Balaguer said that in one of his trips to this country, King Juan Carlos of Spain had asked his advice about the legalization of the Spanish Communist Party. "I am not committing any indiscretion, because that conversation has been widely publicized in the latest book written by the Count of Motrico, the former Spanish foreign minister," Balaguer said.

Finally, President Balaguer said that if his party's convention were to choose him as a candidate for the upcoming presidential elections on 16 May, he would serve his last 4-year term and he would govern as he has always desired to, closing his 16 years of government by carrying out a large number of projects at all levels in the country.

GOVERNMENT TAKES CONTROL OF ALL FOREIGN TRADE

FL281600Y Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 24 Feb 78 p 5 FL

[Excerpts] Georgetown, Guyana, 23 Feb (CANA)--Guyana's Prime Minister Forbes Burnham has announced that his government has taken control of all foreign trade, both import and export. The disclosure came near midnight at a flag-raising ceremony to mark the eighth anniversary of Guyana as a republic. But Mr. Burnham gave no details.

The prime minister was at the time announcing plans to tighten up management of public corporations, and he noted the state's control of about 80 percent of the economy and the establishment of a state planning commission. "It has been decided that all foreign trade, import and export, will be the responsibility of the state," he said.

The new state planning commission is to assume responsibility for setting financial, material and social targets of public sector enterprises. Secondly, he said, the differing management systems inherited upon acquisition of the various companies and corporations, were to be rationalised into one basic system.

He announced too that while that was being done, there would be action to fashion structures allowing for maximum involvement of management and non-management workers in decision-making in keeping with the government's socialist philosophy.

Mr. Burnham is himself president of the Guyana State Corporation (GUYSTAC) holding company for all state enterprises. The GUYSTAC group includes over 30 corporations and companies in a wide range of activities. Together with the nationalised bauxite and sugar industries they give the government ownership or control over more than 80 per cent of the economy, a situation which Mr. Burnham said allowed for monitoring of the economy and its reconstruction on socialist lines.

GOVERNMENT PUSHING FOR EARLY CARIBBEAN SUMMIT MEETING

FL271645Y Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 23 Feb 78 p 1 FL

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, 22 Feb (CANA)--The Guyana Government is pushing for an early meeting of Caribbean heads of government, a senior official here has said. He said a request was passed through the CARICOM secretariat to Barbados about whether the island could host such a meeting.

CARICOM member states here being sounded out about a convenient time for the long delayed summit, which will have among its tasks the appointment of a new secretary general to succeed Alister McIntyre. McIntyre left the region last August to head the commodities division of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Geneva.

There have so far been two nominees--Joseph Tyndall, who had been McIntyre's deputy and is now acting in the position, and Barbadian Kurlleigh King.

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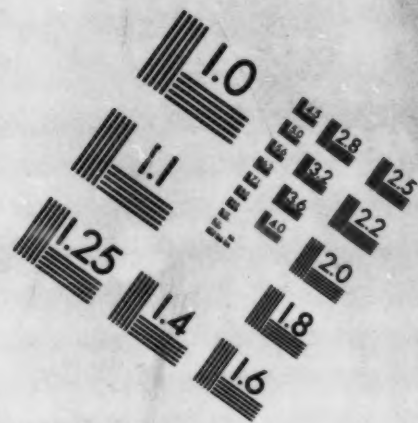
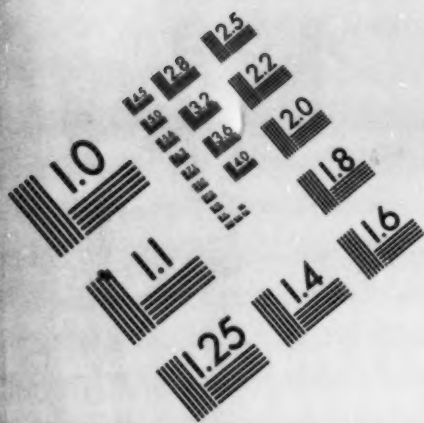
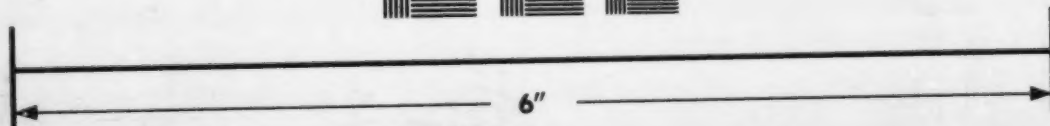
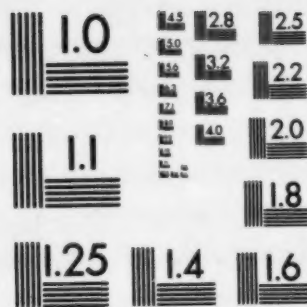
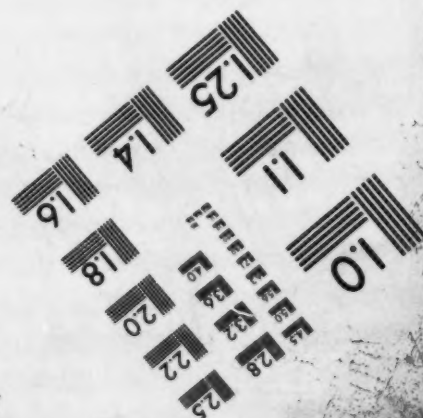


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